

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 20th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Second vernacular test for deputy collectors.

913 Q.—Mr. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state—

(a) the standard of second vernacular required to be passed by (1) deputy collectors, (2) district munsifs and (3) probationary sub-registrars ;

(b) what is the total amount of travelling allowance paid to probationary sub-registrars in the year 1921-22 for attending the second vernacular test ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that great hardship is experienced by the low-paid probationary sub-registrars in passing the second vernacular test just like deputy collectors and district munsifs and whether they propose to abolish the system in future ?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to answer given to clauses (1) and (3) of question No. 916.

(c) The answer is in the negative to both parts of the clause.

Distinction among certain Government officers regarding peons allowed to them.

914 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any distinction drawn between the following officers, or whether they are all ranked as gazetted officers :—

(1) Deputy Collectors,

(2) District Registrars,

(3) Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies,

(4) Deputy Directors of Agriculture,

(5) Assistant Directors of Agriculture ;

(b) the number of peons allowed to each of the abovesaid officers ; and

(c) why a distinction is drawn between these officers in the matter of allowing peons ?

A.—(a) All the officers referred to are Gazetted officers.

(b) Deputy Collectors, Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies and Assistant Directors of Agriculture are ordinarily allowed

- two peons each, District Registrars three peons each and
- Deputy Directors of Agriculture four peons each.

(c) The number of peons is fixed with reference to the work to be done

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Reduction of menial establishment by the Director of Office Systems.

915 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(1) to lay on the table a statement showing the number of peons, attenders, muchis reduced by the Director of Office Systems in 1922 and 1923—

(a) in the Madras Secretariat offices,

(b) in all other departments of the Presidency arranged according to caste ; and

(2) to state how the Government intend providing these menial servants with livelihood ?

A.—The recommendations of the Director of Office Systems have resulted in the abolition of 23 posts of attenders and peons in the Secretariat and 6 such posts in other offices. Seven of these posts were filled by acting men and seven by men who had earned their pensions and who have accordingly been admitted to them. Eleven of the remainder have been provided for in other offices. Of the four who have not been provided for two are non-Brahman Hindus, one a Muhammadan and one an Adi-Dravida. Endeavours are being made to find places for these men in other offices in which vacancies exist. Should these fail, they will be given the gratuities to which they are entitled under the rules.

Second vernacular test for deputy collectors, district munsifs and probationary sub-registrars.

916 Q.—Khan Sahib A. P. I. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTA : Will the hon. the Member for Finance, the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the standard of second vernacular required to be passed by (1) deputy collectors, (2) district munsifs and (3) probationary sub-registrars ;

(b) whether it is a fact that probationary sub-registrars and probationary lower subordinates in revenue are exempted from passing the second vernacular test ; and

(c) the amount of travelling allowance paid to probationary sub-registrars in the years 1921 and 1922 for attending the second vernacular test ?

A.—(a) The information is given in the following statement :—

Indian deputy collectors and district munsifs.	European deputy collectors.	Probationary sub-registrars.
I. Conversing with accuracy and fluency in the vernacular.	I. Conversing with the examiner or with natives of India on subjects likely to occur in the performance of professional duty, in the transaction of ordinary business or in the course of every day life.	I. Conversing on subjects calculated to test the candidate's colloquial knowledge of the vernacular. Hand-writing in the vernacular shall also form a distinct item of the examination.

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Indian deputy collectors and district munsifs.	European deputy collectors.	Probationary sub-registrars.
II. Reading with fluency or translating correctly two or three arzis or other official manuscripts written in a plain running official hand.	II. Reading fairly and translating with accuracy an original vernacular letter or report of moderate length and difficulty in the language of the district.	II. Reading printed matter fluently.
III. Taking down in English evidence given in the vernacular and asking questions thereon in the vernacular.	III. Rendering into English a vernacular report read out.	III. Reading fluently two manuscripts, one written in a plain running hand and the other a petition or similar paper.
IV. Dictating an order on a given subject in the vernacular.	IV. Dictating an order on a given subject in the vernacular.	IV. Translating printed matter into English.
V. Translating in writing with fair accuracy of idiom and grammar an easy passage of English prose relating to Indian subjects and containing no words that have not familiar vernacular equivalents; such passage shall, as far as possible, bear upon questions connected with the department to which the candidate belongs.		V. Translating into the vernacular an easy piece of English relating to subjects connected with the department.

(b) Probationary lower subordinates in the Revenue Department are not required to pass a vernacular test. It is exceptional for probationary sub-registrars to be exempted.

(c) The Government are unable to collect the information within the time allotted for replies to questions.

II

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

DEMAND XIX—PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS—*cont.*

MOTION No. 171—*cont.*

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now resume discussion on the Budget for the year 1923-24."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, Sir, the object of the allotment, which my hon. friend from Coimbatore proposes to omit, is to provide for District Health Officers in all the districts. These officers, Sir, are required to collaborate with and control the District Health Staffs, which it is the intention of the Government to constitute for all districts in accordance with the scheme which they have announced in their order No. 1096, dated the 26th June 1922. This scheme itself, Sir, is the result of more than a year's long and anxious deliberation of the Public Health Department in regard to the very vital question of the public health of this province. Sir,

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hon. Members are aware that the civilized world has at last come to realize that disease prevented is better than disease treated, that well-managed sanitation is more welcome than even medical relief, and that, in fact, if the former is properly cared for the need for the latter will be practically nil. And yet, Sir, what have been our endeavours hitherto in connexion with the sanitary arrangements of this province? It is true, Sir, that the Government have been spending a considerable amount of money upon cholera parties, Deputy Sanitary Inspectors and so forth, and some of the District Boards have had Sanitary Assistants. But of what good were these parties and these individuals to secure sanitary benefit to the Presidency? The cholera parties had their headquarters in Madras and were to go to the affected areas when occasion arose; but, unfortunately, as a rule, before these parties arrived at the affected area the disease used to have done its worst. As to the Sanitary Assistants, they were, if I may say so, a set of ill-trained and ill-equipped officers who were never known to have done anything substantial. The Government have now proposed to disband the Cholera Parties and other establishments and, in their place, to constitute a regular staff of Health Officers for all districts with the staff well trained in the theory and practice of sanitation. These establishments do not cost any extra expenditure to the Government, and, in fact, if anything, they cost less than the cholera parties and deputy sanitary inspectors. It is true that the district boards have to pay for the health officers of the districts, but they would be having regular establishments of Health Staffs by paying for the Health Officers alone, and even that out of a provincial grant given to the general resources of the local boards.

"Sir, under the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee grants have to be given to the local bodies only for services rendered. Now, what the Government have announced in their Order of the 26th June 1922 is that out of the grant of 17 lakhs and odd, one-tenth should be devoted for the appointment of these District Health Officers. Moreover, Sir, under the provisions of the Local Boards Act, the district boards have to appoint health officers whenever, in the opinion of the Government, the appointment of these officers is necessary. The Government of India have been repeatedly addressing this Government as to the urgent need of the appointment of health staffs in the districts. In these circumstances, Sir, where is the ground for complaint of the local bodies? They have been asked to devote a portion of the grant hitherto given for general resources for this particular purpose. Sir, the House may remember that in the coming year's Budget provision has been made for a grant of 17 lakhs for the wiping off of the deficits of the local bodies. And, when the financial position of the Government improves, it is likely that more liberal relief will be granted to the local bodies. In these circumstances, Sir, I fail to see the reason why my hon. friends are against the health scheme.

"The scheme has been approved by very great authorities on health questions such as Dr. Heizer, the head of the International Health Association of New York and Sir Claude Hill, the Director-General of the Red Cross Society. Further, we have tried this scheme as an experimental measure in some districts and thanks to the never-flagging zeal of our Director of Public Health, the experiment has proved very successful and thousands of lives have been saved in these districts. In spite of it, I am surprised to see that this scheme has been the subject of attack in this House. I hope, Sir, that with this explanation my friend will see his way to withdraw his motion."

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Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I think the hon. the Minister who has defended this new expenditure as
 11-15 a.m. spoken of the past services of the sanitary staff as compared with the present in somewhat disparaging terms. It has always been the chief function of Members of Government to stand up and defend public servants against any aspersions on their public work. But on the present occasion it has fallen to the lot of a non-official like myself to say some good words on behalf of the large body of Sanitary Inspectors."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" What I meant to say was that the sanitary staff had not the required training nor had they the opportunities to do anything good."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I am afraid this explanation makes the matter worse. If Sanitary Inspectors had not the opportunity to do anything good in the past, it was not at all their fault. The whole question of public health and sanitation hinges on finance, and if in the past the expectations formed of the sanitary staff have not been fulfilled, it is certainly not the fault of their training and much less of their opportunities. It is entirely a question of finance. My hon. friend seems to think that with the new training that is to be given to these Health Inspectors, a new era of sanitary progress is likely to be ushered in. I am as enthusiastic as my hon. friend and I fully realize the great public services which have already been rendered by the existing staff."

" I am also aware of the projected scheme. My first objection to it, Sir, is that the experiment which has been initiated has not been sufficiently long before the public. I think that to make provision for a District Health Officer in each district, after one year's experiment in five selected districts, amounts to introducing the experiment much sooner than is justified by the circumstances."

" My second objection is that the amount required for this large and comprehensive scheme of public health has not been found from the new resources placed at the disposal of the local bodies but have been provided by cutting down the existing grant to the local bodies. I do not suppose that my hon. friend will deny that fact. What it really amounts to is this: that the hon. the Minister thinks that a portion of the resources placed at the disposal of the local bodies should be devoted to this purpose. The objection to this expenditure comes also from the circumstance that funds have been found for this new scheme by appropriating from one head to another. It does not really amount to augmenting the resources of the local bodies for this purpose, and, therefore, if local bodies are apprehensive that this scheme is not to their taste, there can be no surprise at all."

" The third objection that I wish to raise is that, so far as I can see, the health staff in the districts is not in any way connected with the activities of the local bodies. It seems to be entirely a new department working in the districts from the Director downwards to the District Health Officers and the sanitary staff. I am entirely opposed to any scheme which does not co-ordinate the activities of the local bodies with the staffs which are proposed to be employed. If there is to be any advance in the public health of this Presidency, it can only be through the enlightened activities of the union boards, the taluk boards and the greater interest which the municipalities and the local bodies in the districts take in this matter. But to organize a District Health Staff independent of them and entirely without

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their co-operation and help is, I venture to think, not a sound measure for promoting public health. Probably the hon. Minister is aware that three or four years ago, there were special Sanitary Assistants in several districts who went round and pointed out all the sanitary defects in the rural as well as in the urban areas. Many schemes have been framed in pursuance of their recommendations, but none of them have been given effect to for want of funds. Unless the hon. Minister is prepared to assure us, that funds will be forthcoming, the present scheme will share the same fate as the previous ones. The hon. Minister gave us no assurance to that effect. It is on this ground that I venture to submit that no allotment should be made for the coming year. We shall certainly watch with interest the progress of the work in the five selected districts; and if funds are forthcoming, and the experiments performed in these five districts are successful, we shall ask the municipalities and the local bodies to take more interest in the sanitary administration instead of creating another central department to work from the headquarters independent of them.

“Last year, when the grant was asked for introducing Health Officers in certain districts as an experimental measure, I did not raise any objection at all. But now when another four lakhs are asked for in connexion with the appointment of a staff to do such work as they may think fit, the question stands on a different footing. My hon. friend has referred to the recognition of preventive relief in all the civilized world. I may assure the hon. the Minister that India also is a part of the civilized world and that India is fully alive to the need for measures such as these. It is only a question of methods. Up to now, activities in connexion with public health have been one of the most important functions of local bodies, and it is now premature to create a Health Staff in all the districts independent of the local bodies.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. I believe, Sir, that Health Officers will be appointed in all the districts from April next. I think that this arrangement has not come a day too soon; on the contrary, there has been considerable delay in increasing the sanitary staff in the several districts. It is an admitted fact that rural sanitation is very unsatisfactory. This is mainly due to the want of a separate staff to go into the question and deal with the problems that arise in different areas. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer in each district is called the Health Officer, but we know full well that he has hardly the time to attend to the sanitary needs of the district. The only work that he attends to in connexion with sanitation is simply passing statistics that he gets from the Sanitary Inspectors and Vaccinators to other people. I therefore think that unless there is a special staff to deal with all these problems, the unsatisfactory condition of rural sanitation must really get worse year after year. I remember in the old Council a resolution was moved by an hon. Member recommending the appointment of an officer for the exclusive purpose of visiting village after village and suggesting remedies for improving the rural sanitation. You, Sir, then replied that this task would involve a touring for 500 years or so if that one officer was asked to tour throughout the Presidency. I therefore think that the District Health Staff is absolutely necessary and hon. Members must be really anxious to prevent the huge mortality in rural parts owing to unsatisfactory state of sanitation. As I already said, this scheme has not come a day too soon. With these few words, I beg to strongly oppose this motion for omission of the allotment for District Health Officers.”

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Rai Bahadur T. M., NARASIMHACHARLU :—“ Sir, I also beg to oppose this motion for omission of the allotment under District Health Officers. At the outset, I must confess that till now the work of the Government in the matter of granting medical relief has been somewhat niggardly, and all the measures that were adopted for the improvement of sanitation in all the districts have been belated. Every municipality pretends to have a sort of sanitary officer either as a sanitary maistri or a sanitary inspector and it is only very few municipalities that possess Health Officers. Almost all the taluk boards do not possess even a Sanitary Inspector. The reason is not that the taluk boards do not realize the importance of preventive relief but that they are unable to do so for want of funds. Half-hearted measures such as the Assistant Sanitary Officers that have been employed hitherto and the plague parties and the cholera parties that are employed in these boards, do not serve any useful purpose. The epidemic parties generally arrive on the scene after the epidemic has played its worst havoc. In these circumstances it was wisely thought that a special permanent staff should be organized for taking preventive measures as effectively as possible. The only drawback in connexion with this is that the local boards are made to pay out of their grants for the pay of these officers. The local bodies have always been getting a certain amount of grant every year from the Government. Now the Government propose to cut off a portion of that grant and give it to this particular branch of Health Staff. The Government also ask the local bodies to defray the travelling allowance, etc., of these officers. This is an additional burden on the slender finances of the local boards. I think the Government should have allotted a recurring grant for this purpose year after year without trenching upon the finances of the local boards. Now, that the Government realise the imperative necessity of adopting preventive measures, they should also make provision for necessary funds without stinting the grants given to local bodies. But for the action of the Government in cutting off the grant to local bodies, this measure should be welcomed by all local boards.

“ One other point that I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to is this: the health officer and his staff must be made to understand that they should work under district boards for their benefit and that they should co-operate with them.

11-30 a.m. “ After the non-official agency has assumed the superintendence and management of these local bodies, we find that a change has come over many of these officials, especially the District Medical Officers. They think that they are independent officers, perhaps to boss over the local boards. Let not these officers also begin with that idea of bossing over the local bodies and dictate to them that they should do such and such a thing. What I say is they must begin with the idea of co-operation instead of thinking that they are absolutely independent of the local bodies, and that the local bodies, being lay bodies, should *ipse dixit* obey their orders. Let not that idea prevail in the minds of these officers. •

“ Another thing is this: The District Medical Officer has hitherto been also a sanitary officer. He has been getting what we sometimes call special pay, sometimes local allowance, and sometimes special or duty allowance. Hereafter, as he has not to do any sanitary work, let a decent portion of his allowance be cut off and utilized for the travelling allowance, etc., of the sanitary officers.

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“So, I think, Sir, that if only the financial portion of this establishment is made lighter for the taluk boards and district boards, this is a measure which should be welcomed by every one, and in that view, Sir, I oppose the motion for this reduction.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“Sir, very often I do not agree with the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government in his policy with regard to the Medical Department, but in this affair I am in entire agreement with him (hear, hear). Sir, hitherto we have had in the headquarters a medical officer who has been in charge of both the medical administration and the sanitary administration. We have been making complaints that as the medical officer has too much work in the headquarters being in charge of the hospitals and jails, he has hardly time to go to the mufassal and look after the health of the people there. We have been agitating through the different medical associations that this combined work must be put an end to and that a separate officer must be appointed to look after the sanitary work. After much agitation, our good Director of Public Health, in whom we have so much of confidence and who has already done a great deal of good in matters of sanitation in this presidency, has strongly recommended that every district should be controlled by an Indian Health Officer who has undergone a special training for that purpose in a college. That such a good proposal should be thrown out by this House is anything but desirable.

“Sir, as it is, the Director of Public Health has only recommended 23 District Health Officers and 205 District Health Inspectors. In my view, for the gigantic work the Department has to carry on in the whole of the presidency consisting of 40 millions of people, the special staff recommended is too small. This staff has to look after the work connected with epidemics whenever they occur, and also the sanitary propaganda work. Our villagers are in perfect ignorance of the rules of sanitation, both western and eastern. So, elaborate propaganda work has to be carried on from one corner to the other, and these District Health Officers have to do this work also to a very great extent. As for Sanitary Inspectors, no doubt, our old Sanitary Inspectors had a certain amount of training, but not any up-to-date training. As science is progressing, most probably all these newly appointed men will be given a special training under special officers here and they will be made up-to-date so that their usefulness can very well be increased. Then again, Sir, there is vaccination. The death due to smallpox is appalling and this is due to the want of vaccination and also want of re-vaccination. All this has to be supervised by men who are trained to do such work. Sometimes the lymph is found fault with; at other times the men who vaccinate children are found fault with. But whichever is to be blamed, the matter has to be looked into and all vaccination work should be done by the sanitary authorities. Again, Sir, our statistics are anything but desirable. As it is, the death rate that is recorded is very inaccurate. All this has to be looked into, and it can only be done by qualified medical officers. For all this work the number of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors recommended is too little. So, Sir, I am against taking away a pie out of this grant which the hon. the Minister is asking for.

“As for co-ordination between the Health Officers and the local bodies, Sir, I am entirely at one with Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu that these local bodies must have a certain amount of control over these officers. Otherwise, the administration will not be what it ought to be.

“With these few words, Sir, I strongly oppose this motion, and approve every word of what the hon. the Minister has said.”

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Sriman BISWANATH Das Mahasaya :—“ Mr. President, it seems to me that we are going to appoint a number of commanders and soldiers without having arms and ammunitions. Much has been said about the utility of District Health Officers. None of us deny either their utility or their usefulness. But the pity is we have very little to afford, and the local bodies have practically nothing to spare. It seems that there is a belief prevailing among the Treasury Bench and also among the hon. Members of this House that once we appoint a number of Health Officers and Health Inspectors, the people will be cured of all maladies and diseases. I beg to submit to the House that the sooner we get rid of such thoughts the better. We must make up our mind to render substantial help and keep substantial amounts of money at the disposal of these Health Officers and Health Inspectors, or at the disposal of the local bodies to be utilized for the well-being of the people, and then only these Health Officers and Inspectors will be of any use to us. I have absolutely nothing to say against the Director of Public Health personally. The pity is he has nothing to spare and the result is he is not able to do much.

“ Connected with a local board myself, I have been receiving time after time reports from the Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors and Medical Officers about the importance to be attached to rural sanitation, and one of the important matters that they have brought out is the water difficulty. In vain, Sir, did I look into the pages of the Budget Estimate to find any grant for this purpose. It is very rigid to say that it is the duty of the local boards to provide for it; but I would beg of the House not to speak of such duty when they themselves control all the resources of revenue and take from their exchequer all the money that the local boards should have received or which in other countries the local boards do receive. It is, therefore, useless, Sir, to appoint an army of officers without having any money at our disposal or without showing any source of revenue to the local bodies to spend from, on their recommendations.

“ The second thing which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government is that he has done an injury, or rather an injustice, to the local bodies in deducting the pay of the District Health Officers from the grant that was hitherto given to those bodies to augment their resources. This is a grant that was afterwards specifically given to them for the maintenance of second-class roads to which Government themselves were committed to contribute a half. Sir, I should think that the cutting off of this grant, without caring even to consult them, has affected even the autonomy which the district boards were given by the Act of 1920. Of course, if Government can give the local bodies money to have a District Health Officer, or find some source of revenue to the local bodies, or give them some contribution or provincial subsidy in order to better the most insanitary conditions prevailing in the villages, none of us will have any objection, and we shall be the first to help the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government in his noble work. I would, therefore, request him to find some money, as has been suggested by the hon. Member for Kistna, to be placed either at the disposal of the local bodies, or at the disposal of the Director of Public Health, or the Health Officers, to fight against disease and death. Otherwise, Sir, the mere appointment of officers will not help the villagers. Rather, I am afraid it will go the other way. These Health Officers will visit village after village and will worry the local bodies with their recommendations. Thus, it will be additional work for the

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local bodies and additional trouble to the villagers, because the local bodies will have to prosecute the people for insanitary conditions over which they themselves have no control.

“With these words, Sir, I believe that the hon. the Minister will give us a sympathetic reply, and I hope the hon. mover will be glad to withdraw his motion after such a reply.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“Sir, I am glad to support the motion for eliminating this item. Sir, we have been begging the Government to make grants for providing the ‘untouchables’ with wells. The miseries of these untouchables in the Ceded Districts as a whole and in the villages in several tracts in the Anantapur district, and also of all classes of people in many villages due to the want of good drinking water, are very great. Government asked the boards to send up estimates, and they have been submitted time after time; yet Government have not been able to find money to provide pure drinking water to these miserable people. In the absence of good drinking water, the sanitary condition will necessarily be very bad. It is true they are going to appoint Health Officers. But is it, as my hon. friend Mr. Narasimhacharlu said, to boss over these boards, or is it perhaps to send estimates or orders to the local boards to carry out sanitary measures without any money and without having any credit in the treasury? Most of these boards have got a minus balance now. They are expected to pay travelling allowance to these officers . . .”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“Sir, of late a check has been imposed on claims for unlimited travelling allowances.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“I am talking, Sir, of the payment of travelling allowances to these Health Officers, and I should think that if the District Board Presidents, the Taluk Board Presidents and the Union Board Presidents are not to go about frequently in order to find out the health of the people, I am afraid much less can be done in this direction by the Health Officers. It is they that are expected to go round and find out defects in the health administration. If we are going to put a check, as the hon. the Minister has just now told us, on the travelling propensities of these people . . .”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“We put a check only in regard to lavish claims for travelling allowance.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“I do not know, Sir, what will be lavish travelling on the part of respectable gentlemen who have their own public duties to attend to and who go out only in the interest of the public. I am afraid that the hon. the Minister is rather unjust in saying that that is lavish expenditure and that the presidents of these local bodies are travelling without any consideration for the funds at the disposal of the boards. When the Government find it necessary to check the extravagant travelling and lavish claims as they call it, of these gentlemen, what check will there be upon the Health Officers?”

“The Government have deprived even the District Board Presidents of any power to control the Health Officers. I am sure, under the present Act, the

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District Boards will have another controlling officer over them. As a matter of fact, as my hon. friend Mr. Narasimhacharlu put it, since the transfer of these boards to the control of non-official gentlemen, these officials—the Revenue Officer, the Medical Officer, and, in future, the Health Officer and the Educational Officer too—think that they

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can dictate to these non-official gentlemen. They think that these non-official gentlemen are novices and that they should be dictated to. They also think that they are the agents of the Government. The position in many of the District Boards has become intolerable. Fortunately some of the District Boards have got the nerve to resist the official encroachments on their powers. Apart from that, when the Government are not able to provide funds to these bodies, which are their agents, to look after the sanitation and the health of the villages by sinking wells, what is the object of providing four lakhs of rupees for the pay of these Health Officers, who, as my hon. friend put it, will go about, make scientific investigations and send up costly estimates to the local bodies? The local bodies will not be able to execute the works suggested by the Health Officers and they will be held up to scorn: the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will say that they are extravagant and they should not have spent money for inspection in the shape of travelling allowances for the honorary gentlemen who are doing the work of the Government. Some of the Boards are in the very pitiable condition of having done work for the Government and not being paid in time. As Sir T. Desikachariyar put it very forcibly, the local bodies are doing State work and yet they are threatened every day that they should balance their budgets themselves. The Government tell them that they will not pay from the treasury and will dishonour their cheques. That is the threat held out by the Government and here is an instance of a thankless task done by the non-officials in the mufassal. They do not know what to do. Their contractors have to be paid for doing work on the trunk roads, but without examining the work the Government orders—I do not know if the hon. Member is aware of it—that payment should not be made. The District Boards say that, having suffered in all ways, they cannot pay the travelling allowances of Health Officers. They have no money to pay these people who have, in the absence of funds to undertake any useful or substantial work, simply to go about dictating to them and lording it over them. Under the circumstances I would cordially support the motion of Mr. Vellingiri Goundar."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, the Government accepted the recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee and said that what they were hitherto giving us for an augmentation of the general resources of local bodies should be made use of by the local bodies for the maintenance of selected second-class roads costing not more than Rs. 200 a mile. They even went further and appointed a committee consisting of Presidents of District Boards, District Collectors, Executive or Superintending Engineers and one elected member from each District Board to scrutinize the roads that were selected as second-class roads."

Mr. E. PERIYANAYAGAM :—"Are we dealing with second-class roads, Sir?"

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"If the Council Secretary waits a minute I shall show the pertinence of my remarks. This Committee decided the question of the length of the second-class roads in each district. Now, when the hon. the Minister got up and said that this grant was for the general resources of the board I was rather surprised to hear that statement from him. I contend that the Government in the year 1922-23 held that his grant was not towards the general resources of the local bodies but for the maintenance of second-class roads. After the year has gone through .

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The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I hope the hon. Member will finish the second-class road affair soon. The total time allowed him is only 5 minutes. I fear he is losing much time in coming to the point."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Sir, the local bodies to which the Health Officers were appointed were asked to meet the cost of a portion of the salaries of these officers out of the grant for the second-class roads. Some of the boards on whom without previous intimation the Health Boards were thrust had to cut off their expenditure on second-class roads or otherwise balance their budgets. So, my contention is that the Government did a great wrong in asking for the curtailment of second-class roads and the utilization of a portion of its funds for the Health Staff. I do not for a moment deny the right of the Government for insisting upon the local bodies to maintain Health Officers. The provision is there. But is it sound policy that you should shift from one grant to another like this and not have any steady policy in regard to second-class roads? Regarding the Health Staff, Government again directed that a Health Committee should be formed in each district to control and direct the health staff lent by the Government to the District Boards. This, I believe, is centralising the control of the Sanitary administration. District Health Committees were formed under the orders of the Government, and my district is one which entertains a Health Committee to control the sanitary staff of the district. My first objection to the functions of this Health Committee is that it is centralising the sanitation of the district. According to the Act, sanitation was made the concern of the taluk boards. Centralisation has come in against this principle, and as we work these Health Committees we find a lot of inconvenience in the matter of control. The taluk boards have their own sanitary inspectors. The Health Committees also have sanitary inspectors lent by the Government. Therefore, in the matter of control a lot of inconvenience has already been experienced. It is necessary that the Government should examine this question of control, and vest it in the taluk boards and not in a centralised Health Committee.

"The main functions of this Health Staff is said to be the preparation of vital statistics, the study of the periodicity of epidemics and propaganda work. Really, if we just examine the vernacular of the persons posted to the various districts we shall know what seriousness is bestowed on the selection of these gentlemen. A Malayalee gentleman not knowing Telugu is posted as a Health Officer in a Telugu district. We expect in the usual course of things that these gentlemen should go to the villages and explain to the villagers the principles of sanitation. Is this the way in which you expect the work to be carried out? Again, in the case of Health Inspectors, in two cases at least, I know that men with a very meagre knowledge of Telugu are posted to a Telugu district and asked to go to the village and do work. If, really, the Government is serious in making the scheme a success, they must select a man knowing the vernacular of the district to which he is posted in the cases of both health inspectors and health officers."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"It will be useful to place before the House how the administration of public health was carried on before the creation of these offices. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer used to look after this kind of work. What he used to do was to go and inspect towns, villages, municipalities, taluk boards and union boards. As he went on inspecting, he used to send up extracts from his diaries, making remarks here and there and making suggestions of the kind of improvements in regard

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to sanitation in particular places. These documents used to be circulated among the local authorities who used to place them at the meeting of the respective boards, and then record them saying 'no funds'. When we have no funds to carry out any improvements in this direction, the mere appointment of Health Officers is like putting the cart before the horse. When the District Medical and Sanitary Officer made suggestions and these suggestions were not carried out for want of funds, I do not see any reason why this establishment of Health Officers should be inflicted upon the local bodies. Unless the hon. the Minister is pleased to place at the disposal of local boards large amounts to carry out the suggestions of these officers the mere appointment of these officers will, I fear, result in no practical good."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"If I rise to give my support to this motion, it is not because I am not satisfied that there is a necessity for the appointment of Health Officers but because I want to raise my protest against the principle which makes these officers to be paid out of the allotment or grants to local bodies. It must be the endeavour of all persons, who have the welfare of the people of this country at heart, to allot sufficient sums of money which might go to improve the public health and sanitation in general of this Presidency. No amount spent in the direction can be considered to have been spent in vain. We know for a fact that for want of funds very many useful and pressing sanitary schemes are held up. We are also aware of the miserable financial condition of most of these local bodies. For sometime now, the Provincial Government has been making what is known as subventions to these bodies. If the hon. the Minister will give us this assurance that he will give us a sufficient sum of money for carrying out the sanitary schemes which have been held up for want of funds and that he will try to give us not twenty-three District Health Officers but forty-six Health Officers without making these local bodies pay for them, I do not think we can take any exception to the appointment of these district health officers which, I feel sure, will go a great way in improving the general health of the masses of this country. But at the same time in view of the principle underlying those appointments and the amount of control or the absence of control which the district boards are permitted to exercise, one is tempted to raise a strong exception thereto. But I hope and trust the hon. the Minister will sympathize with these local bodies and influence the Government to bear this item of expenditure out of the general revenue instead of weakening the hands of these local bodies. It is necessary, at the same time, that these district boards should have powers of general supervision and control over these district health officers who must be viewed as the subordinates of the district board president. The hands of these presidents who are non-officials ought not to be fettered in the matter of supervision over the District Health Officers, if local self-government is to be really useful and popular."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"So far as this motion is concerned there does not seem to be much difference of opinion between those who have so far supported it and those who have opposed it. All of them have expressed that there is a considerable amount of difficulty in the way of working out the scheme on the lines suggested by the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government. There are no two opinions as to the fact that we ought to adopt preventive measures by appointing health officers in the districts for the purpose of carrying on the necessary health and sanitary work. If objection has been taken, it is only for the method in which the policy is proposed to be worked out.

12 noon.

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu]

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"The first objection that I wish to place for the consideration of hon. Members of this House is that in respect of the appointment of District Health Officers, action should be taken by the district boards themselves, and that the Government should not compel them to appoint district health officers. If district boards were assured that funds would be forthcoming to them for carrying on the necessary sanitary measures, they would accept the advice of the Government so far as these appointments are concerned. But in this case the Government take advantage of the extraordinary powers vested in them and state that district boards shall appoint Health Officers. This is, I believe, going against the principle of local autonomy for which we are now fighting; and it is altogether objectionable.

"Secondly, that the grants made for second-class roads in view of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee should be utilized for the purpose of appointing Health Officers is not reasonable at all. Let it be remembered that Government some time ago called for proposals regarding the construction of second-class roads by district boards, and proposals were sent and classifications also were made. When it was found that Government had no sufficient funds they gave up the proposal and allowed the district boards to have their own second-class roads. So, Government realized the necessity for additional funds; but as they could not find them, they restricted the provision."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Does this in any way prevent Government from finding more funds for constructing second-class roads?"

RAO BAHADUR A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"That is what I am coming to. If my remarks have convinced the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government of the reasonableness of the suggestion, I think the provision made for second-class roads should not have been cut out. Anyhow I hope and trust that the hon. the Minister will see his way to supplement the grant hitherto made under this head. I do not want to say anything more on this point.

"So far as the appointment of District Health Officers is concerned, I think there is no use of having these officers unless this step is preceded and succeeded by a policy of making large grants for carrying on other sanitary measures in the districts. The provision made for the appointment of these officers will merely enable them to be trained in their work, and nothing useful to the people will follow, because the local bodies are not in a position to finance these schemes. They are not able even to provide wells and some other rudimentary necessities for the sanitation of the people.

"I take this opportunity of reminding the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that it would have been better if he had considered these proposals before making up his mind for making provision under this head or that head. It is true that the Financial Relations Committee made recommendations and that it was found difficult to give effect to them in their entirety. But I may say this: whenever the Government find it inconvenient to give effect to certain recommendations, they say that there are many difficulties on the way of giving effect to them. The system of giving minor sanitary grants is one that was disapproved by the Financial Relations Committee, and the Government and the Finance Committee took advantage of this suggestion and declined to provide for minor sanitary grants to local bodies. May I point out, Sir, that with these minor sanitary grants it was possible in the past for the local bodies to increase the water-supply in the

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rural areas by digging wells and opening up other sources. Under this head, one lakh of rupees was formerly sanctioned to the District Board of Anantapur and 40 to 50 lakhs or more to other districts; and with these grants wells were dug for the depressed and other classes. The moment these grants were taken away, all these works had to be stopped by the local boards. Government say 'we cannot provide for each and every item; we are not in a position to provide funds'. So I say that in any scheme of sanitary relief it is absolutely essential that Government should provide for funds for the purpose of increasing the water-supply in rural areas. If the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government is not in a position to assure us whether he will be able to make a definite provision for this purpose, I would ask, what, after all, is the work that these 23 Health Officers are going to do in the districts? Therefore, while I realize that these officers will be in a position to do all the sanitary work that is needed for a district, I do not understand the necessity for them at present. If the hon. the Minister expects us to retain this grant, I hope that he will realize the uselessness of these officers when there are not sufficient funds even for carrying out the minor sanitary works in the districts, and that he will see his way to provide funds for this purpose."

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—"I think the provision for the appointment of District Health Officers is quite necessary. Sanitation has been neglected by the local boards. Something may have been done by the municipalities. But in rural areas nothing has been done in the past. I have several objections against the appointment of the District Health Staff costing such a large sum of money. One is that the money that has been allotted for the purpose of second-class roads should be cut down. Though the Health Officers are quite necessary, the local boards cannot be expected to pay their salaries. If their salaries are paid by the Government, the local boards will have no objection to their appointments. But there is no use of cutting down the grant made to district boards for second-class roads. Therefore, in supporting the idea that there should be Health Officers for the districts, I suggest to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that no deduction should be made from the other grant given to local bodies, and that a definite allotment should be made to each district to expect the staff to carry out the health administration."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"I am really surprised at the attitude adopted by some hon. Members, in opposing this provision. Sir, it has been urged that one of the main objections for these Health Officers is that it would tend to centralise the activities of the local boards in respect of sanitation. It was said only the other day that there were difficulties in the way of giving effect to practically all the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. I am sorry to see that while on the part of the Government they find it difficult to accept some of the recommendations made by that Committee, some of us ourselves find it difficult to accept other recommendations made by that Committee. The Financial Relations Committee, Sir, definitely recommended the formation of Health Boards and also the appointment of Health Officers. In paragraph 133 they state :

We support the recommendation of the Local and Municipal Conference that the service of Health Officers should be provincialized. It is admitted on all hands that the career of a Health Officer under present conditions has failed to attract suitable men. Similar difficulties in recruitment are experienced in England. Every district board and every municipality should appoint a qualified Health Officer if sanitation is to make headway.

[Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu]

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This was the recommendation of that Committee, of which my hon. friends, Mr. Ramachandra Rao and Mr. Narasimha Raju, were members; but the latter says that he has the strongest objection to District Health Committees being formed, one reason being the centralization of the local boards. In paragraph 135 the Committee state:

District boards require first class Health Officers, and, in this connexion, we would suggest the desirability of inviting all local bodies within each district to unite in co-ordinating not only sanitation but also medical relief by constituting under the provisions of the Act a joint committee to discharge the duties of a District Health Board. We consider that such committees are necessary in the interests both of efficiency and economy.

Such District Health Boards were constituted for several districts, and many district boards were in favour of constituting District Health Committees for helping the District Health Officer.

"Now, it is asked: what is the use of this Health Officer without providing the necessary funds? Let me remind hon. Members that in the Financial Relations Committee's report, with reference to the way in which the local boards were helped by Government in the matter of sanitation by means of what are called sanitary grants, hon. Members who formed that Committee unambiguously stated that that should not be the policy. On the other hand, the policy should be to meet such expenditure from large loans raised after having the proper schemes drawn up and sanctioned: I may be allowed in this connexion to refer to paragraph 138 of that report which says:

We see no justification for the continuance of minor sanitary grants except in so far as they relate to water-supply and town improvements which would be treated separately hereafter.

In paragraph 149 (ii) it says:

We consider that the provision of pure drinking water in rural areas should be regulated by more definite principles than have hitherto been observed. We recommend that each local body should be required to prepare a three years' programme of schemes for rural water-supply. These schemes should be classified in order of their urgency and this order should be based on the prevalence of water-borne diseases and on the population of the village which the schemes will serve.

"I may state that if there is any objection for providing funds, it must be on the ground that the Government have not got sufficient funds and that such provision cannot be made before any definite schemes are drawn up and approved. But may I ask, Sir, who is to draw all these schemes? The various wants of the local boards are different. One board may say that a latrine is necessary here, and another may say that a well is necessary there, and under these circumstances the Government cannot make minor grants for these purposes. The hon. the Minister in making this provision is only trying to give effect to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee by getting the District Health Officers to prepare schemes on the best lines possible, so that when grants are applied for for carrying out these schemes he may provide the local boards with funds by taking loans. I am, of course, aware that this provision has been made by cutting the 14 lakhs grant, which, I think, is probably due to the financial stringency; but, Sir, 17 lakhs have been provided for relief to the local boards. Sir, we should be grateful to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government for having provided these 17 lakhs. I really think that this recommendation to appoint District Health Officers is one of the best recommendations of the Financial

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Relations Committee which deserves to be given effect to. For this reason, and also for the various other reasons I have referred to, I oppose the motion before the House."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"The complaint hitherto has been that there is not enough money to attend satisfactorily to sanitation and other things though we may employ the necessary staff for them.

"For example, let me refer to the housing problem and the town-planning question. We raised this question last year, and yet we really do not know where we are with regard to this matter. His Excellency, in the first speech he made before this House, referred to the Housing Bill which he said would soon come up before us. I do not know really when that Bill is going to come up before us. Again, Sir, in 1922, in the month of January, I brought the question of housing the poor before the House. Then the hon. the Minister said that the Madras City Town-Planning Trust would examine the general principles of the housing problem. We entertained high hopes that the Housing Committee would outline the general policy. But no general policy, I think, has yet been evolved. The Minister for Local Self-Government trusted that with the help of the Town-Planning Expert who had taken charge of the town-planning schemes a general plan of action would be laid down. Well, Sir, I should like to know what has become of all these expectations."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"Is my hon. friend in order in speaking of Town-Planning Trust now?"

The hon. the **PRESIDENT** :—"I understand his point to be—I am open to correction—that the money will be more usefully spent upon Town-Planning than upon the Health officers. There was also a reference to roads. There also the point was this: if money were available, it would be more usefully spent upon the construction of roads than upon anything else. What weight is to be given to such arguments it is not for me to say. There is just some relevancy."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"That is exactly the line of my argument, Sir. When these people have no money for more important matters what is the fun of undertaking other things?"

"Then what about the special law for housing the industrial labourers? Have the Government, at least now, any clear and definite ideas about the housing problem except that the housing schemes should be financed from loans raised? Have they considered the question? And, if so, what are the conclusions of the Town-Planning Trust in this matter? The Minister told us that the Housing Committee might consider the question of the housing problem. My information is that no such committee is in existence. Was it ever appointed at all? If so, what are its conclusions? Then, Sir, I should like to know how the Government propose to carry out the schemes of the Town-Planning Trust. Is it the Corporation or the Trust that will be in charge of the supervision? How are their different activities to be co-ordinated and correlated? Again, Sir, the Government are spending money on the Chairman of the Town-Planning Trust. He gets Rs. 350 per month simply to be the Chairman. I really do not know what functions he has to discharge. If he is already a full-time officer of the Government

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I do not see the necessity of spending more money on him. The hon. Minister has to consider all these questions before he embarks on new schemes which may be satisfactory or not in the end."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—" Sir, I beg to support the motion now before the House largely for the reasons that have been assigned by those who have opposed the motion. Sir, the trend of the discussion that has so far taken place makes it, I think, perfectly clear that every one of us is agreed as to the object which the Government has in view in putting forward this scheme for which the sanction of this House has been required and to which the motion moved by my hon. friend relates. The only question is whether the scheme that has been put forward with the limitations or the latitude that are given is the one best calculated and best capable of achieving the purpose in view. The objections, Sir, to the creation of a Health Department on a wide scale can be summarised as follows.

" As a matter of fact, the funds with which this new set of officers who are to be brought into existence have to be paid are to come from the local boards in one way or another; so that practically it is the monies of the local boards that are going to be utilized for the purpose of paying these officers. But there is this question. While the monies come from the local boards, the local boards will have no controlling voice over them. That is one of the objections raised. Another objection that is raised is—it probably follows from the first—this: If these officers and the Departments which they are to control are to be of any use it should be necessary that there should be a certain amount of co-ordination between their activities and the work of the local boards, and unless you are sure of that there is no use of creating this staff and this Department. The third objection is this: It is all very well to have a staff, and a very competent staff also, to carry out certain purposes very estimable in themselves and endorsed by all the civilized world. But this again requires monies to be laid down in various schemes; and unless you have some provision or some means of making provision for these schemes, what is the good of bringing a staff into existence which can only be for harassing if it has no particular work on which to lay its hands upon? In reply to these objections, what has been urged is this: You have in the first place the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. Secondly, the tendency of late has fortunately been that our revenues show a certain amount of elasticity which was not expected when the hon. the Finance Member budgeted the estimates for this year. And it is asked, the object being such a good one, and the persons directing it being such excellent people, why we should lose even a day in bringing into existence and operation that scheme.

" Shortly stated, these seem to be the relative positions taken by those who are in favour of the motion and those who are opposed to it. And this House has, I think, in the circumstances a very easy task by way of distinguishing the merits of these relative positions. Now, Sir, it seems to me that there is a question of principle involved in the procedure that the Government has followed. I have already had occasion to complain more than once that oftentimes this House—probably, 'oftentimes' is a little exaggerated—that sometimes this House is committed to a policy which it has not had enough time to discuss. I am afraid, Sir, this is one of those cases. The House must be given a full idea of what exactly the functions

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are that this Health Department is going to perform, and even more how it shall be enabled to discharge them so that the exact position of the local boards towards this Health Department will come up directly for discussion and the Government might have either the benefit of the remarks and the views of this House in regard to this matter. As it is, we find that certain functions are given to this Department which are entirely within the jurisdiction of this Government, and all that this House is asked to do is to grant funds for carrying on these functions.

"When we find that there is this objection—and a very serious one it is—that the extent of control these local boards can have is nothing or very little, it is a very serious matter. I find that those who support and those who oppose the motion are agreed that at present the control of the local boards is not sufficient. Now, Sir, it has been pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, that the Financial Relations Committee have stated that this Department should be provincialized. Apparently his own remarks, or the recommendations that he read, carry with them their own antidote. It is stated in the Report that where the Department is to be provincialized the persons who are to be appointed as Health Officers must be appointed by the local boards. Now, in the scheme is that provision to be found? Are these Health Officers to be appointed by the local boards? What is the kind of control that these local boards have over them? I submit that unless this House is given adequate information and is able to satisfy itself that by sanctioning this grant it has not in any way impaired the usefulness, or hampered the discharge of the functions of the local boards or in any way impeded the carrying out of their responsibility for the general well-being of the district so far as these things which are out of the purview of the local boards, are concerned, this House would be very ill-advised in sanctioning this allotment, that is, in rejecting this motion. Then, Sir, we have pointed out that it has been possible for us to have more grants. When more grants are available, let the scheme come up for consideration, because we shall then know what exactly the work is that these Health Officers will apply themselves to. In connexion with this, it has been pointed out that we have not exactly known what the implication is of having drainage and water-supply schemes. Now, Sir, every one of us recognizes that the utility of this Department that is going to be now enlarged will largely depend upon the extent of funds available for the purpose of carrying out the various schemes."

Rao Bahadur K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :—"I am rather inclined to support this motion. Sir, if the sanitary staff is to be employed, the only purpose which they will have to serve will be to bring forward certain difficult proposals which cannot be put into effect for want of funds. It is our experience, Sir, that under the old scheme according to which the Sanitary Assistants were touring through the villages, they visited almost every village in the district and proposed certain health schemes which are still pending, for want of funds, in the pigeon holes of the district and taluk boards awaiting destruction. You will see, Sir, that these various schemes which are proposed by these Sanitary Assistants have not been given effect to for want of funds, and if the same purpose is to be served by the employment of a Health Staff, there is no good. We shall have to see that the schemes proposed by them are carried into effect. In some cases some ideal proposals were put forward by the sanitary officers with reference to the improvement of the sanitation

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and health of certain villages. They said that dirt in the village should be removed one mile away from the village. They also said that all the cattle should be removed two miles away from the village. These proposals are quite theoretical and idealistic, and they will cost a great deal. Probably the Health Officers may propose that all the streets in the villages may be cemented so that no dirt or mud may remain on them during rainy seasons. I do not know how these proposals will be carried out unless it be that under sanitation much money, which will serve some other useful purpose, is provided. Then, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu quoted the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. If I had been on that Committee I would have gone further and said that each village required a Public Health Officer (hear, hear!). But, Sir, where are the funds to carry out the proposals of these officers of the Health Department? I may say that

12-30 p.m. there should be a Health Officer at every nook and corner provided we have funds. On the one hand, you take away all the sanitary grants; you don't want to put into effect the proposals of these Health Officers regarding the wells for supplying drinking water to the depressed classes, etc.; on the other hand, you take away the grants that are usually made to the local bodies. But you want a large staff of officers for public health and sanitation, who can serve no other purpose than put forward proposals merely to be recorded by the district and taluk boards and to be destroyed in course of time."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I have given notice of a motion to reduce Rs. 100 out of the allotment and I wish to make a few remarks on this motion. I do admit that rural sanitation is very backward in our presidency and that a lot of improvement is needed in this direction. This is a fact which very few will deny. But the question is whether this state of affairs is due to the want of a health staff to guide us or to some other reason. As stated by my hon. friend, Mr. Gopalakrishnayya, we have got heaps of recommendations made by District Sanitary Officers and by other special staffs which might have worked in the districts from time to time. For instance, recently, in my district, the cholera party which had worked there for a few months had made a number of recommendations. The recommendations reached me and I was simply overwhelmed with their large number. We were not able to give effect to these recommendations made by a staff which worked in the district only for a few months. For instance, they wanted that a number of wells should be dug. They said that cholera was due to a great extent to the fact that step wells are used and so they wanted that all these wells should be converted into draw wells. With reference to villages which have water-supply from rivers, they made a number of recommendations. The cost of giving effect to all the recommendations of this cholera party would come to several lakhs of rupees. Thus, it seems to me, Sir, that it is not for want of advice that we have not been able to improve our rural sanitation.

"I may say a word about the District Medical and Sanitary Officers. They have been doing very good work. I am sorry for the remarks of my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhacharlu. So far as I know, they are very helpful. They or their assistants have been inspecting unions and making very good recommendations. But, as I said, their recommendations also involve a lot of expenditure. It is because we could not find funds that we have not been able to carry out any forward policy of sanitation in urban as well as rural

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areas. So it seems to me that the defects which we all admit and which we all want to be remedied as early as possible are allowed to continue not because we have not got the advice of any special staff, not because we have not got any officers to look after these things, but because we have not got the wherewithal to carry out the recommendations that are made. That is the position. Now it is proposed that there should be a health staff for each district. I have no doubt that these will be in a position to advise the local bodies. They will be able to make recommendations with regard to rural and urban areas. But what will be the result of these recommendations? The same old story will be repeated: there will be no money to carry out the recommendations.

"It has been said, Sir, that the creation of this staff has been recommended by the Financial Relations Committee. I was a member of that committee and I take complete responsibility for the recommendation that was made. But our position then was this. We wanted that a portion of the expenditure on certain other things should be borne by the Government, thus relieving the boards of their burden to some extent. If that money is available to the boards they will be in a position to undertake a forward policy in the matter of sanitation. But the Government have not done that. They say that this particular thing is a recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee and so far as *their* responsibility in the matter is concerned, they do not take any action. They have stopped giving minor sanitary grants. At the time when the committee was sitting, the average grant for minor sanitary work was about eight lakhs of rupees."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"There seems to be a mistaken impression that the minor sanitary grant was a recurring grant. Only whenever there were financial windfalls, the Government used to give local bodies certain grants under this head. But, unfortunately, during the last few years, we are not having such windfalls. Therefore there is no use in saying that the Government are not giving any minor sanitary grants. Moreover, the abolition of minor sanitary grants is a recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I was careful to say that the *average* grant came to eight lakhs of rupees. I know that it was a non-recurring grant. The Financial Relations Committee suggested that this form of grant need not be continued, but at the same time they suggested that the local bodies should be relieved in some other way. If all the recommendations of that Committee had been given effect to, certainly the local bodies would have been in a position to spend something on sanitation. Instead of that, the Government have given effect only to a few of the recommendations, with the inevitable result that the local bodies are not in a position to find any funds whatever for sanitation and other purposes. The net result is that our funds have been taken away with both hands. In addition to that we are told this morning that a portion of the grant that Government had been giving has been earmarked for this purpose. Our own services for which we had been getting grants hitherto are not reduced in any way, and this additional service is being imposed on us. No doubt the imposition is legal, and the Act allows it. This additional service is imposed on us, and for this purpose a portion of the grant that is usually given to us is taken away or, as it is said, earmarked."

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Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to support the motion of my hon. friend, Mr. Vellingiri Goundar, and, in doing so, I wish to state my reasons. I am not very much interested in the question whether the district or taluk boards are able to find funds or any such thing. It seems to me that the position of the Health Department is anomalous; neither the local bodies nor the provincial Government is responsible for it. Sir, three days back I had to criticize the want of policy in regard to irrigation works. Now, I may say that the Government has no policy so far as the Health Department also is concerned. It seems to me that the Government is adopting the theory of the survival of the fittest. 'Let epidemics and other diseases take away as many people as possible;—let the fittest and the strongest survive;'—that seems to be the policy of the Government. They do not seem to take any trouble in putting an end to the epidemics, such as cholera, plague, etc. By our voting for this motion, Government will be obliged to take some steps to adopt a policy whereby the Local Self-Government Department will be responsible for the welfare of the people. Personally, I am inclined to think that there should be a separate Minister for the Health Department as in other countries. Unless this is done, there is no use, when so many diseases are rampant, of speaking of nation-building departments. By nation-building departments they mean industries, schools, colleges, and so on. What is the use of having all these, if the health of the country is not looked after? In these circumstances, I have to vote in favour of the motion."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" At first I had not intended to speak on this motion. But the trend of the discussion has forced me to say a few words. Sir, I have heard with very great regret the criticism that has been levelled by hon. Members against the District Health Officers' scheme. I should have thought that if there were any one scheme which appealed to the sense of the hon. Members as having been not a moment too late, it was this scheme of the District Health Officers. I will not enter into the question as to wherefrom the funds should be found just at present; but taking it as a general question, I should have thought that every one of the hon. Members would have agreed that this was a scheme which was not introduced a moment too late.

"The criticism that I have heard this noon reminds me very forcibly of a meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Houses of Commons and Lords on the Government of India Bill at which I had the privilege, along with my hon. friend and colleague, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, to be present. I think my hon. friend will bear me out when I say that one of the most impressive witnesses before the Committee was Colonel Elliot, some time Superintendent of the Madras Ophthalmic Hospital. Colonel Elliot is one of the champions of the Medical Service in England, and since his retirement to England he has been constantly endeavouring to put himself in the forefront of the agitation regarding medical questions, whether in regard to the Service or in regard to the Administration of Medical Relief in this country. Colonel Elliot, speaking on behalf of the British Medical Association and as its accredited representative, gave evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee that Medicine and Sanitation ought not to be Transferred Subjects. He pleaded, and pleaded very strongly, that those subjects should be only Reserved Subjects and put under the control of the

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Reserved Half of the Government, and that popular Ministers should have nothing to do with either Medicine or Sanitation."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" Did he say that ? "

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I am as far as possible repeating his words. I have no doubt my own ideas on the matter.

" He said that the people of India had a very poor idea of sanitation and that they did not know what preventive medicine was. They did not believe in it and they did not believe in a staff organized to check evils such as cholera and other epidemics before they spread. He said that in England and other advanced countries, the spectacle of plague, cholera and other epidemics raging for months and months before any responsible authority came to know of it was a spectacle which had not been seen for 400 years, but asserted that in India that was a common spectacle. Colonel Elliot's argument against the transfer was that the representatives of the people, however educated and however enlightened they might be, had a very poor idea of what sanitary relief meant and what preventive medicine was for. They wanted results on the spot and they would not wait. Those of us who fought for the transfer of these subjects gave a different version. I think my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, will agree with me when I say that I argued as far as possible against Col. Elliot's view. Now, the vote on the subject would show whether his view was justified or not.

" As regards the question of roads and communications, of course local bodies have a grievance in the matter, and second-class roads are a crying necessity. Coming from Chingleput, I must say that my district has the greatest grievance in the matter. Close as it is to Madras, requiring as it does a great many facilities which other districts do not require, we have suffered for the last two and a half years from the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. But that apart, the simple question is this: The money at the disposal of the Government is limited, and it should be spent either on the second-class roads or on public health work. Let us find money for both. Taking it for granted that we have money for the one or the other and not for both, I think every hon. Member will agree that that money should be spent on improving the health of the people; otherwise we shall not only get into the position depicted by Col. Elliot, but also justify it."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR :—" Sir, I am sorry I was a little late in attendance and so could not hear what the hon. Minister had said in reply. However, I want to say a few words in reply. Much has been said as to the relative importance of road communications and public health and the want of funds for improving both. What I wish to say is that, after all, the work that these Health Officers are going to undertake—work like the prevention of cholera, plague, guineaworm and other water-borne diseases—is, as has been indicated by the several hon. Members who have spoken already, well known to the Taluk and District Board Presidents and the Revenue officials who tour through the villages. They have very well realized the requirements of each village for the prevention of these diseases, and they have the material, men, advice and understanding power necessary to meet them. The only difficulty felt is want of funds and not the want of a costly establishment and its expert advice. I do not think for a moment

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that this highly technical staff is necessary. So, I think the House will consider the matter dispassionately and see that the money allotted for the improvement of communications is not utilized for other purposes. I hope the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will accept my motion without any difficulty."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, I have listened with great care to the debate on this motion. The main arguments advanced against the scheme for giving District Boards Health Staffs are four in number. Firstly, hon. Members say that the experimental measure that was introduced was not sufficiently tested; secondly, that giving effect to the scheme will amount to a separate entity being brought into existence, an entity altogether independent of the local bodies; thirdly, that we are forming these health establishments without the necessary funds to carry out the work; and, fourthly, that the funds which are required for the appointment of these District Health Officers are to be met from the grants which hitherto the local boards were getting for general resources.

"Now, coming to the first of these points, even those who support the motion do not for a moment hesitate to admit that there is necessity for the appointment of Health Staffs in the districts, and a number of the District Board Presidents support the view that the Health Staffs already constituted are doing excellent work. My hon. friend, Dr. Rama Rao, too appreciated the scheme. That really is a valuable certificate, because he is always opposed to the Public Health policy, as he has himself admitted, of the Government.

"Now, coming to the second objection, it is said that the constitution of District Health Establishments amounts to the creation of an independent entity. I cannot for a moment understand how this establishment could be considered as the constitution of an independent body. The constitution of Health Staff is not different from the constitution of engineering staff. Even as the engineer is not appointed by the Board, so is the health officer not appointed by the Board."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"That is under the new Act and not before."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I am referring only to the new Act. So far as the staff is concerned, it is to be controlled by the local bodies. So, practically it does not amount to the creation of any body independent of the local bodies.

"Now, coming to the third objection, viz., that these health staffs have not sufficient funds to carry on the health work, Sir, there seems to be a misapprehension. Most of the work is done by way of propaganda; that sort of work does not require any large investment of money. As a matter of fact, the incidence of many of the epidemics can be averted by timely warning to the people. Take the case of the outbreak of cholera. If cholera breaks out in a village situated at the source of a particular stream, if timely warning is given to the villagers living down the current of the stream, a number of deaths can be prevented. So, Sir, much depends on propaganda work which does not require much money. So far as the sanitary works are concerned, such as digging wells and other things, the taluk boards are still empowered to undertake those operations.

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“As regards the fourth objection, namely, that this establishment is to be maintained from the funds which have been hitherto granted for general resources, my hon. friends, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar and Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, have given an effective reply. The financial position of the Government is not what it should be. In these circumstances, if a choice is to be made whether the funds that are now given to the local bodies should be devoted either for public health work or for the maintenance of second-class roads, I think the choice should be in favour of public health work.

“Incidentally, my friend, the Member from Anantapur, has raised the question of wells for the depressed classes. I have every sympathy for it, but I only feel sorry that even an enlightened district like Anantapur—

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“A very poor district.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“It is strange that a district with a district board presided over by my hon. friend should still continue to prevent the Adi-Dravidas and others from drawing water from the ordinary wells. I hope, Sir, that the presidents will be the first to set an example to others to show that after all the Adi-Dravidas, the Arundateyas and other depressed classes are our own men.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“We are not social reformers, but where we do sanitary work we have to do that work with the money at our disposal.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“I want to ask if the new Health Officer can solve this problem.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“In view of these observations, I trust, Sir, my hon. friend will withdraw his motion.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“Sir, on a matter of personal explanation: My hon. friend, Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu, seems to charge me with inconsistency in making certain recommendations in the Financial Relations Committee and in saying something to-day here which went against those recommendations.”

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“What I was saying was with reference to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee and I think Mr. Narasimha Raju will bear me out.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“I may be permitted to say that I was not a Member of the Financial Relations Committee.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“I think the hon. Member, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, referred to Mr. Ramachandra Rao. There is no harm really in having an explanation.” (Laughter.)

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“I only referred to the recommendations made in the Financial Relations Committee of which Mr. Ramachandra Rao was a Member.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“I only wish to point out to him, that, while the Committee recommended that minor sanitary grants should be abolished as they existed, they also made a recommendation that in rural areas, as will be seen from paragraph 149 of the Report of the Committee, a definite allotment should be made for the improvement of rural

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water-supply in place of the abolished grant. What the Government have done is to abolish the minor sanitary grant; they have done nothing to replace it by the method which the Committee suggested.

"There is only one other point by way of personal explanation. The hon. Member, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, also seemed to suggest that we were objecting to this provision of Health Officers. My objection to the present scheme is this: although it is a scheme which provincializes the District Health Officers and places them on a provincial cadre, we have heard nothing to-day as to what control the district boards are to have over them. Our recommendation was, as my hon. friend admitted, that every district board or municipality should appoint a qualified Health Officer. My hon. friend does not say what organic connexion there is between the Health Staff which he is creating and the Health Officers. Are they to pick out certain men out of the staff and employ them as Health Officers, or are these District Health Officers to be controlled entirely by the Provincial Head of that service? Nothing has been said on that score. I may assure my hon. friend that we are as keen as he himself for the promotion of public health."

The motion was put to the House and declared lost.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar demanded a poll which was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. K. Adinarayana Reddi. | 10. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 2. S. R. Y. Ankineedu Prasad Babadur. | 11. Mr. P. Siva Rao. |
| 3. Mr. A. Thangavelu Nayagar. | 12. " C. V. Venkataramany Ayyangar. |
| 4. " V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. | 13. " M. Suryanarayana. |
| 5. Rao Bahadur K. Gopalakrishnayya. | 14. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 6. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 15. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 7. " M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu. | 16. " R. Seturatham Ayyar. |
| 8. " L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar. | 17. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 9. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 18. " T. Sivasankaram Pillai. |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 21. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 2. " Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 22. " K. P. Gopala Menon. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 23. " K. Kandaswami Kandar. |
| 4. " Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu. | 24. " J. Kuppuswami. |
| 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 25. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. |
| 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 26. " A. T. Muttakumaraswami Chettiyar. |
| 7. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 27. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd. | 28. " A. Ramayya Punja. |
| 9. " A. Y. G. Campbell. | 29. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. |
| 10. " C. Madhavan Nayar. | 30. " W. P. A. Saundarapandiya Nadar. |
| 11. " R. D. Richmond. | 31. " K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 12. Diwan Bahadur T. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 32. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayana-murti Nayudu. |
| 13. Mr. E. F. Thomas. | 33. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi. |
| 14. " E. Periyanyagam. | 34. Mr. S. Muttumanikkachari. |
| 15. Rao Sahib T. C. Thangavelu Pillai. | 35. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari. |
| 16. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 36. Sriman Sasi Bhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 17. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai. | 37. Mr. S. Arpudawami Udeyar. |
| 18. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 38. Rai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas. |
| 19. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu. | 39. Mr. A. T. Palmer. |
| 20. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 40. The Raja of Ramnad. |

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Nces—cont.

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| 41. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan. | 48. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur. |
| 42. " C. R. T. Congreve. | 49. Mr. L. C. Guruswami. |
| 43. " A. D. M. Bavotti Sahib. | 50. " R. T. Kesavalu Pillai. |
| 44. Khan Sahib A. P. I. Saiyid Ibrahim Ravuttar. | 51. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya. |
| 45. Muhammad Abdur Rahim Khan Sahib Bahadur. | 52. Mr. A. G. Leech. |
| 46. Khan Sahib Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaak Sahib Bahadur. | 53. " A. M. MacDougall. |
| 47. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadulla Badsha Sahib Bahadur. | 54. Rao Bahadur T. Namberumal Chettiyar. |

Neutral.

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| 1. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 7. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam Nayudu. |
| 2. Mr. V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai. | 8. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 3. " P. T. Rajan. | 9. Mustapha Ravuttar Ahmad Miran Sahib Bahadur. |
| 4. " R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar. | 10. Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib Bahadur. |
| 5. " T. Somasundara Mudaliyar. | |
| 6. " A. Subbarayudu. | |

Eighteen voted *for*, and 54 *against* the motion, 10 remaining *neutral*.

The motion was lost.

At this stage the hon. the Deputy President took the chair.

MOTION No. 172.

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI:—"Sir, I beg to move—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,50,736 for Public Health Establishment.

"Sir, I am not unaware of the usefulness and many-sided virtues of the Health Department and the various boons it is capable of conferring upon the country and its people. The very name signifies that it is intended to improve public health, which, nobody can deny, is the most essential thing for the very existence of the world. But, the reason why I am forced to make this motion is that I sincerely think that there are no extraordinary conditions prevailing now to make it quite indispensable to have the Department in the face of the great financial stringency that is now rendering the running of the administration not quite easy. When funds permit, the scheme may be quite welcome. We can conveniently wait till then. I am not well aware of what purpose the Department is serving in Madras, the metropolis of the Presidency. But judging from what is being done by it in mufassal places, I am convinced that it can be abolished wholesale at once and be reopened when all the imminent necessities are satisfied and when funds become available. At present a District Health Officer is practically serving no useful purpose except perhaps that of being an addition to the village officers who attend to health work. He visits a village and the diary of his work contains invariably these words, 'Visited such and such a village. There are so many wells in it. So many step-wells need immediate conversion into draw-wells. The village is dirty having dung-hills close to inhabited places. The president, taluk board, is requested to convert the wells into draw-wells and to prosecute such and such persons.' He also writes in his diary 'addressed a meeting of 20, 30, or 40 villagers on the causes of the outbreak of cholera and impressed upon them the necessity for keeping houses clean.' This is all the work he is doing, and this I think any layman without any special knowledge of any special science can do. The village headman is required to read a small book on

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hygiene and to pass an examination. His knowledge, I think, is quite sufficient to do the work which the Health Officer is now doing. Touring revenue officers like the Revenue Inspectors may be asked to do this work. I am sure they will do this work without claiming any remuneration. I do not see any need for highly-paid special officers for this purpose."

Mr. E. PERIYANAYAGAM :—" Mr. President, I rise to a point of order. I think the time for this grant expires ten minutes after 1 o'clock. In the Assembly the practice is that at whatever stage the discussion is, on the expiry of the time, the axe falls down. Now it is about quarter to 1 o'clock. I request you to give your ruling on the point of order."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I think the time expires at 1-30, exactly at the lunch hour, because we are calculating the time taken up yesterday. That is the calculation arrived at by our erudite Secretary."

Mr. E. PERIYANAYAGAM :—" I am sorry, Sir, my calculation is different."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I think your calculation is a mistake."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Since the mover of this motion has voted against the previous motion for the omission of an allotment regarding this matter, can he now move for the omission of the total grant, Sir ?"

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" That is not exactly a point of order. But that can be seen later on."

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI :—" I am sorry, Sir, to hear that I cannot move this motion having voted against the previous motion. I do not think that a person is bound to vote for or against a motion according to his remarks upon it (laughter). Nevertheless, I think I can move my motion to bring out my own point."

" Then, Sir, whenever I have occasion to read the administration reports of the heads of this Department, the only thing that strikes me most is their intellectual capacity to make little things appear very large. Indeed these reports cover more pages than the administration reports of other officers. Sir, especially when the Government are not able to find funds to retain village establishments intact in spite of the fact that the village administration is the basis for all other administration and in spite of the fact that the safety of the Government and the country do demand improvement of the efficiency and numerical strength of the village staff, it is hardly justifiable for the Government to maintain the Health Department. While the Government by one stroke of the pen without even consulting the public could venture to loosen its main springs by reducing the number of village headmen and *talaiyaris*, who are as it were the life springs of the Government or like the bees that had the key to the life of Miravana and who had been holding their appointments even from before the advent of the British Government, they should not, I think, hesitate at all to abolish this Department by one stroke of the pen. But here, perhaps, the Government may be afraid of the resentment of wide-mouthed and long-tongued men unlike those in the case of village headmen and *talaiyaris* who are dumb and voiceless though very loyal and faithful in their defence of the village and the Government. Therefore, I wish that the Government should see that the village administration is made strong and efficient, finding funds by effecting

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the abolition of such departments as the Health Department for which there is no immediate need.

“ For these reasons, I move that the allotment be omitted.”

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I think my hon. friend, Mr. Sarabha Reddi, in moving this reduction, wanted to raise a question of policy. As for the good work done by the health establishment, I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not place before the House the benefit of the experience I had of their work in one or two taluks of the Trichinopoly district and in the Tanjore taluk. Apart from general sanitary conditions, there was an epidemic called relapsing fever, and whole quarters of Adi-Dravidas were swept away practically. It was a very fortunate thing that the Director of Public Health, passing through Trichinopoly and Tanjore, held meetings and began some propaganda work which was afterwards continued by the Public Health establishment. I myself was very anxiously watching the progress of that alarming disease which nobody was able to diagnose and for which no adequate remedy was found even by the medical officers stationed in the neighbouring dispensaries. My own *panniai* died of that disease and many local mirasidars found that at that alarming rate of mortality it would be impossible for them to find farm hands to cultivate their fields. The result of the propaganda work carried on by the Public Health establishment is that this disease has been practically stamped out. It is very curious to remark that this disease was propagated or spread by a very ordinary and common insect which clings to man, namely, the louse. Now, in the villages I found, in the quarters occupied by the Adi-Dravidas, that both men and women removed their tufts of hair and the result was very beneficial to them. Apart from the question of health and other sanitary arrangements, here was an epidemic which broke out suddenly and which required the investigation of scientific experts. But for their labours nobody would have found the relationship existing between that very ordinary and innocent insect, as we thought, and this terrible disease. If the health establishment is not able to do greater work, I think here again there is the question of the limitations arising from paucity of funds. Many hon. Members spoke of the paucity of funds, and I think it is possible for the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to reconcile all these objections and difficulties raised by hon. Members who really were in earnest and sincere in raising them and in desiring to have certain questions of policy raised threshed out and solved satisfactorily, and the assurances given by other hon. Members that very good work was being done.

“ There is one other point which I should like to dwell upon, namely, the remark that has been made that Indians do not understand sanitation. I think any careful observer of the rituals, ceremonials and the frequent ablutions, etc., practised by Indians will come to the conclusion that their religion is really a kind of sanitary regulation, and all these practices and ceremonials which are scrupulously performed by them are so many sanitary regulations prescribed by the ancients which in course of time acquired the sanction of religion and which certainly go a great way towards improving sanitation. As for the location of certain places where filth is apt to accumulate far away from the villages, it is a question that can be successfully tackled by the labours of the Public Health establishment, when good and proper recommendations are made and sufficient funds are forthcoming.”

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I support this motion whole-heartedly, but this should not be taken to mean that I am against the advent of that glorious day when the box of Pandora will be closed after all her followers are imprisoned inside that box. The only question is if that day can possibly come, and if the army consisting of 23 commanders and 205 soldiers to be directed by the Director of Public Health will be sufficient to keep down that army of Pandora. It has been very well said that the only question is not that there is any suggestion that we are against health. All of us want health, but the only question is whether that health can be got by having these Health Officers. There seems to be a desire on the part of every one at the head of every Department to have a paraphernalia of as many highly-paid officers as possible, ignoring the fact that the work is to be done by the people at the bottom and not by those on the top. We would certainly be glad if the hon. Member in charge of this Department can get some pagoda tree from which he can get a number of coins sufficient to have highly-paid officers as well as low-paid officers. We are not concerned with the fight between the hon. Member in charge of the Local Fund Department and the presidents of district boards whose complaint was that they had to overfeed the officers of this Department. The complaint of the ordinary man is that he is being starved so as to feed any number of highly-paid officers. We are not against health being improved, but as has been very well remarked by Mr. Gopalakrishnayya, what we want is District Health Officers, Taluk Health Officers and Village Health Officers. If money can be had for all these officers, we will be quite willing to get them all, but at the same time we would rather have the poor-paid Village Health Officers in the absence of District or Taluk Health Officers. There is plenty of filth in villages, and are the Taluk Health Officers going to remove it? It is the Village Health Officers glorying in the name of scavengers that should do it, and unless sufficient number of scavengers and sweepers are provided under the immediate charge of the Revenue Officers or Taluk Board Presidents to clean the various villages, we submit there is absolutely no necessity for having highly-paid officers to write their diaries, to visit the markets, etc., and, whenever it is possible, to prosecute the offenders. We have already had a number of additional Departments recently, and any addition to the existing Departments means an addition to the persecution and suffering of the villagers. The villagers tremble at the idea of having some more highly-paid officers. At present, I think it is better that all this money is spent in the real cleansing of dirt and if any supervision is found necessary, it is better that the supervision is made by the presidents of taluk boards, helped, if necessary, by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer. Various certificates have been given to that high officer, but still I think that he has not got much work to do, and he has got both the capacity and leisure to do this additional work. Therefore, I submit that the appointment of a large number of highly-paid officers when there is no low-paid army will be a waste of money. We are therefore against this particular establishment, but not against the expenditure of this amount of money on sanitation. We think that if money is available, it can be utilized for useful purposes on the lines suggested by me."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" Sir, I wish to oppose this motion. I think after the Council have accepted the scheme of having District Health Officers, it will be really negating this sanction if they disallow this establishment.

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[The Raja of Ramnad]

I may claim some intimate knowledge of the work of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer in my district, and I may say that he has absolutely no leisure to attend to any sanitary work. He has to attend to the headquarters hospital, he has to perform major operations and he is always there. He goes out to some places where there are dispensaries and inspects them, and that is all the work he can do for the rural parts of the district. Therefore, it is very necessary that we should have this establishment. If, as my hon. friend from Coimbatore says, this money is to be spent on sanitary works rather than on establishments, I do not know through which agency he can get this amount spent. If he thinks that the taluk board presidents or district board presidents will be able to spend the money, I may tell him from personal experience”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“I only said taluk board presidents.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“I think I can claim greater and more intimate knowledge of the work of the taluk board presidents than my hon. friend. Therefore I say with my experience as President of a district board, that they cannot be expected to do this work, and it is only through this health staff that sanitary work could be done and should be done. Therefore, I strongly oppose this motion.”

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—“Mr. President, Sir, I find that there are only about five minutes more for the closing of this subject and I therefore crave your permission to digress a little, and say a few words touching this Department. I was to have spoken on the subject of the Public Analyst, but since that matter is not going to be discussed, I only want to say that whatever is going to be done with this grant, the hon. the Minister may look to these things beforehand and have locally trained men rather than outsiders and swell the number of those whose pay ought to be high because of their foreign importation. That is all that I have to say with regard to the Public Analyst, and I say it now as it comes within the grant under discussion. If I remained neutral and did not vote on the last motion, it was because I am one of those who believe in the sacredness of our trust in the matter of sanitation, and we cannot spend too much on sanitation. But one has to cut his coat according to his cloth and the reduction can only be made by having as far as possible local agency instead of foreign agency, in which former case the expenditure will be considerably reduced”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“Mr. President, Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, has told us that we are very hygienical and sanitary in everything and that in all our ceremonials we observe sanitation. But what I want to tell him is that these ceremonials or practices are misdirected and misunderstood. Sir, the orthodox gentleman goes to a dirty pool and bathes himself therein.”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“I do not know if that is quite relevant to the subject under discussion. No doubt, Indians have known sanitary principles, but if you are disputing that proposition, you may quote instances.”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“Sir, what I say is that there is no use of bathing in that way, because once Dr. Nair observed that for clearing off the dirt that accumulates on the body of the orthodox people, all the soaps in the world would not be sufficient.”

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Will the Health Officer give us some soaps ? ”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ What I am saying is that the religious practices are misdirected.”

Rao Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“ Does the hon. Member advise us not to bathe ? ”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ One hon. Member should speak at a time.”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ The Health Officers may tell the people not to bathe in dirty pools, they may tell them to have good water to bathe in. Another thing I want to say is this. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar was telling us that village scavengers were enough . . .”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I simply said that village scavengers were necessary, but not that they were enough.”

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Mr. President, am I to understand from the hon. Member that people here bathe in dirty water ? ”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ The orthodox section generally does.”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ I am afraid Dr. Natesan is not quite in order. The hon. Member is stirring up dirty water.” (Laughter.)

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ As Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar said, that is not the only duty of the Health Department. Preventive medicines, to prevent the outbreaks of epidemics like cholera and plague, these people have to find out.”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ As it is half-past one, the time allotted for this demand has expired. I will therefore put the motion to the vote before I put the demand.”

Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI :—“ I beg leave to withdraw the motion.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand No. XIX was then put and carried and the grant made.

At this stage (1-35 p.m.) the House adjourned for lunch.

2-30 p.m. The Council met at half-past two after lunch with the hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the chair.

DEMAND XX—AGRICULTURE.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move Demand XX. Agriculture for a grant not exceeding Rs. 14·54 lakhs.”

MOTION No. 173.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,70,213 for Deputy and Assistant Directors of Agriculture by Rs. 1,000.

I will just say a few words, Sir. The hon. the Minister in charge of this Department was pleased to say at the time of the general discussion of the Budget that he had made large reductions in his Department by not

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filling up acting vacancies in some cases and in others by filling up the vacancies with the subordinates in the Department. My idea in bringing a motion of this sort is not to reduce even a pie out of the allotment, but only to know whether every pie that is spent is usefully spent in the Department. So far as the Ministers are concerned, I must say, with all respect to them, they do not seem to be as insistent in getting money as the members of Government are. They are no doubt very strong so far as their followers and their party are concerned. But they are not equally strong with their colleagues in the Cabinet. It is therefore necessary that any money that they have been able to get either by their persuasion or by the grace of other members of Government should not be curtailed. My object in this motion is to suggest some means by which the money available for useful items might be increased. Our complaint from the very beginning has been that there is quite a large number of unnecessary officers higher in the department. I would now respectfully ask the hon. the Minister to continue his present policy of not recruiting people from England to fill up any vacancy and to fill vacancies by people working in the department as subordinates to the gazetted officers. I know, Sir, of some departments like Entomology in which such people have been made to act, and I have been told that their work has been found satisfactory.

"Next, Sir, I would draw the attention of the hon. the Minister to those appointments like the Scientific Expert and the Lecturing Expert. There is, for instance, a lecturing chemist in addition to an expert chemist. Every one of these has got a number of gazetted or non-gazetted assistants. I would appeal to the hon. the Minister to see that whenever there is a chance the two appointments are held by one and the same person. I hope, Sir, that much money can be saved and utilized for other purposes, if this suggestion is adopted.

"Coming to the question of Deputy and Assistant Directors it so happens that there is one Assistant Director working under a Deputy Director in many divisions. It is better that these officers are given different jurisdictions so that the Assistant and the Deputy Directors may work in different places and their work may be co-ordinated by the one supervising over the other. In spite of what all is said about the supervising staff in the department, I have my own fears about their work. The subordinates spend more time in answering the questions of superior officers and in satisfying them than in meeting the public demands. I think that the work can better be done by dividing the jurisdictions and by making the Deputy Director and the Assistant Director work in different places.

"Then, Sir, the number of Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors is at present equal except where they are engaged in special work. It is better from the point of view of economy as from other considerations to reduce the number of Deputy Directors and increase that of the Assistant Directors. I may point out here, Sir, that the pay of an Assistant Director is less than that of a Deputy Director, and, probably, two Assistant Directors may be got for the pay of one Deputy Director. Therefore we can have more officers doing the same work as the Deputy Directors at a less cost.

"Sir, it has become the practice that in everything English experience is supposed to be superior to Indian and that is the case in regard to the Deputy Director of Live-stock. I do not know whether a European is necessarily superior to an Indian so far as live-stock is concerned. In fact, I may

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say, Sir, that many of the ryots in places like Kangayam in my own district and other places who cannot boast of any English education are much better than any of these master farmers of England in the art of breeding cattle. I would therefore suggest that so far as this officer is concerned—I have absolutely nothing personal against him—he can be sent away if that is possible. He seems to have been taken on three years' probation, and I do not know whether the probation period is over and whether he has been confirmed. If he has been appointed *pucca* I do not want the settled fact to be unsettled unless it is absolutely necessary. If the probation period is not yet over, I request the hon. the Minister to consider seriously the undesirability of confirming him in his appointment. I am saying this because I know there are a number of people in the estate of the Agricultural College itself who know much about live-stock and who have received special training in various works connected with it. It is not as in the Forest Department where we have elephants to manage. Thank God we have no elephants, black or white, in this department. As is pleaded by the hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp, so far as elephantry is concerned an inspector of live-stock may be necessary in the Forest Department. But I can see no need for a highly paid Deputy Director of Live-stock in the Agricultural Department.

"There is the other question of the Deputy Director in charge of the planting districts. I do not want to go into that question. It is very difficult to say whether there is any necessity for a Deputy Director of Planting districts having, so to say, a concurrent jurisdiction with the officer in charge of the division. I understand that some contribution is made by the planters towards the pay of this particular officer, and therefore it is a rather difficult question whether they will continue their contribution if the general officer in charge of the division is in charge of the planting interests also. In case the hon. Minister finds that the contribution will be continued, I would request him to consider the feasibility of abolishing that post.

"These are some of the suggestions that I wanted to make and if some attempt is made by the hon. Minister on these lines, I am sure that a large saving can be effected and a large amount can be utilized to make the village demonstrators easily available in each village to hold practical demonstrations rather than expect the ryots to go to the demonstrators themselves. The hon. the Minister has been sympathizing with us in our efforts in this direction, but he has not been able to act up to his sympathies, which I am tempted to think are really confined to his lips. If the hon. Minister cannot fill up his purse by contributions from other departments, he should at least try to fill it up from his own money spent in other directions. We want a larger number of demonstrators who can go from village to village and show the people the advantages of the advanced methods of agriculture. I will therefore appeal to the hon. Minister to consider the matter deeply and try to convert his sympathies into action. With these words, I beg to move the motion in my name."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Mr. President,

2.45 p.m.

I must at the outset thank the hon. mover of this motion for the conciliatory speech that he has delivered to-day. He was telling us that at one time we charged the hon. Members with ignorance of these matters. Let me here repudiate the statement that we ever charged any hon. Member, much less the hon. the mover, with ignorance."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I was referring to the establishment which charged the hon. Members with ignorance of these subjects."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I know, Sir, that my hon. friend is very well acquainted with the Research Institute and the work of the Department and so he cannot be charged with ignorance of the workings of the Department.

" The next question referred to by the hon. mover was that the Ministers were not very vigilant in getting as much money as possible. Well, Sir, I cannot plead guilty to that charge. We have been trying our best to get as much as possible ; but we have not been able to get much, and, as the hon. Member says, our pockets are not full.

" As regards the Demonstrators, I may assure the hon. mover that the Director of Agriculture will be quite willing to appoint a large number of Demonstrators provided funds are forthcoming. If this House sanctions money next year, I shall try to put as many Demonstrators on work as the College is able to turn out.

" There are one or two matters to which criticism has been directed. First, as regards the Deputy Director and Assistant Director, it is not accurate to say that every Deputy Director is assisted by an Assistant Director. Out of the eight circles, in only three circles the Deputy Directors are assisted by Assistant Directors ; in the other five circles there are no Assistant Directors to help them. Even among the Deputy Directors some of them at least are Assistant Directors promoted to do that work. Therefore, on this point there is not much to be said.

" On the question of Live-stock Deputy Director, it will be conceded that our live-stock is not the best of the kind and our milk supply is very poor. If we mean to have a good breed of cattle in this country, a good breed not merely of draught cattle but also of good cows that will give milk, something will have to be done in this direction. I wish to point out to the House that in countries where attention has been bestowed on the question of milk, there are cows which yield four or five times more milk than our best cows. This shows what scientific research and good breeding can do in the matter. It is only in order that we may be able to achieve some good in this direction of increasing the milk supply that this appointment of Live-stock Deputy Director has been made. This is an appointment made by the Secretary of State. I do not for a moment mean to say that I would not have made that appointment if I had been left alone. I strongly feel that much requires to be done in both these directions. That officer is now on leave and a provincial officer below him has been posted to act for him.

" Then, Sir, I come to the question of planting districts. My hon. friend stated that a contribution was paid by the planters. I may mention to the House that the planting district has separate work to be done there. Our coffee and tea industry are well known. The House is aware that so far as tea is concerned, India is one of the countries that come in the first rank of exporters. In these circumstances, I do not think that any money spent on improving our tea industry will be a waste. Further, when it is remembered that what is being spent in this direction is so small, I think hon. Members will agree that this appointment is well made.

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"As regards the question of not filling up the acting vacancies or filling them up only with officers who are below I may say that this problem is engaging my attention. Unfortunately, most of our agricultural experts are going away to other countries where they have better prospects. If hon. Members would look at the Civil List, they would find that six or seven officers have already left. The fact is that the salary that we are paying these officers is not sufficiently attractive according to their valuation. There are other countries which are willing to utilize their services on very lucrative salaries. Most of these officers take advantage of the option of premature retirement on proportionate pension and seek employment in other countries, where they can certainly get more than what they are getting in this country. I should be very sorry to lose the services of these officers. I should think that for some time to come we must have some experts who would put our men in the way. As pointed out by my hon. friend, some of those who have been trained under these experts do very well when they are put in the places of their superiors when these superiors go on leave or are transferred or leave this country. I think it is very essential that we should have the assistance of these experts in training our men. These experts are men trained in countries where science has made rapid advancements, and our men, if put under their training, will get the knowledge that these experts possess. I have always looked upon the appointment of experts in that view. Then, Sir, I wish to point out to the House that we have put in as many Indians into the department as possible. Let us always remember that we do require experts for some time to come so that they may impart to our men the expert knowledge gained by them in countries where science has advanced a good deal.

"Lastly, Sir, I wish to say that, as is the custom with me, I shall send down a copy of the discussions here to the officers concerned and proper enquiries will be made and action will be taken wherever possible."

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. the Minister for making that last observation, namely, that he is generally in the habit of sending copies of the discussions that take place here to the officers concerned for necessary action. From my own personal experience, I must say that some points raised by me on a previous occasion were sent to the Director of Agriculture and he has deputed some officers to see what could be done to redress the grievances complained of.

"First, Sir, as regards the complaint that the hon. the Ministers are not vigilant in getting money from the Government for the development of their particular departments, we have been seeing that that is a fact. I do not bring in personalities at all. I was tempted to make that statement to-day because this morning when I entered the House a long list of supplementary grants to be moved to-day at 5 p.m. was given to me. The total amount of supplementary grants comes to 17 lakhs, and the whole amount exceeding 80 lakhs is to be appropriated by the Reserved Half of the Government. Practically very little is asked on behalf of the transferred subjects. That is why I have been tempted to make the statement that the Ministers are not very vigilant in pressing their claims on the attention of the Government. The House is perfectly willing to vote supplementary grants if asked for by the hon. the Ministers; but the thing is the door of the House must be knocked at. The hon. Members belonging to the Reserved Half come in with grants, supplementary grants and supplementary supplementary grants, but the hon. the

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Ministers never come before us even for a single supplementary grant. The House has no power to say that it will make over to the Ministers such and such an amount. The Ministers must come before it for supplementary grants. On behalf of all the Members of the House, I may take the liberty of assuring the hon. the Minister that no demand for supplementary grant brought by him will be refused. (Applause.)

"Then, Sir, as for the Live-stock Deputy Director, I wish to say a few words. He has been in office for the past three or four years. He is training a person who gets a sum of Rs. 60 or so. All I wish to say is that if his appointment falls vacant an Indian with the requisite qualifications might be put in the vacancy."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"My hon. friend is not quite accurate in saying that the person who is undergoing training under this officer is getting only Rs. 60. I am told that he is getting Rs. 150 and he is very well trained."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 174.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,400 for new works (immovable) by Rs. 100.

Sir, my object in making this motion is to say a few words regarding the policy of opening paddy farms in the Presidency, especially with reference to Malabar. The district of Malabar, as the House is aware, is one of the paddy producing districts in the Presidency, and it is hardly necessary for me to say that it is the duty of the Government to increase the output of paddy by both extensive and intensive cultivation. Though Malabar is one of the paddy producing districts in the presidency, yet on account of the hills and forests in the district, it is not possible to produce enough of paddy for the consumption of its own population. The quantity of paddy produced is hardly sufficient for six months' consumption for the people living in the district and the paddy that is required for the remaining portion of the year has to be got from other districts in the presidency. The total acreage under paddy cultivation in Malabar is about 8.75 lakhs and the quantity of paddy produced per acre is 1,400 pounds: so that, the total quantity of paddy produced in the whole district comes to about $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of tons. Taking $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds as the minimum required for consumption per head, and taking the population of the district, which is nearly three millions, the total quantity produced is hardly sufficient for six months.

"The necessity for opening a paddy farm in Malabar was referred to more than once by the agricultural officers employed in the district. In their report for 1912-13, the agricultural officers referred to the need for opening a paddy farm in South Malabar, and this was again repeated in the report for 1917-18. Lord Pentland, when he visited Malabar and the Taliparamba farm, wrote in the visitors' book that it was absolutely necessary to open a paddy farm in the district. This was in 1914. But, soon after, the war broke out and it has not been possible for the Government to do anything in that direction. There is already one farm in North Malabar, but that is not in the paddy region. It is in the pepper region and it was primarily intended for the cultivation of pepper.

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"I may inform the House that South Malabar is the place best suited for the cultivation of paddy and there are several useful places where farms can be conveniently established. It is unnecessary for me at this stage to go into details; but I may mention that some places near the railway line in the Palghat taluk or in the Walavanad taluk may be chosen for the opening of paddy farms. From the facts which I have submitted to the House it will be seen that it is necessary to open a paddy farm in South Malabar and I hope the hon. Minister will bear all these facts in mind and try his best to open a paddy farm as early as possible.

"In this connexion, I may be permitted to refer to one other point. When the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter introduced the budget the other day, it was said that our deficit was about 31 lakhs. Subsequently, on account of some windfalls, we have been able to get about 30 lakhs. I am sure that these 30 lakhs will be distributed among the various departments. I hope that the hon. the Minister for Development will not be slow in pressing his claim for a portion of them. I may assure the hon. Minister that the House will fully support him in any demand for supplementary grants that he may bring forward. I once more appeal to the hon. Minister to open a paddy farm in South Malabar in the immediate future."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Sir, I am very glad to associate

3 p.m.

myself with all that has just now been said by my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar. I have already, on previous occasions, drawn the attention of the Government to the immediate necessity for the opening of paddy farms in South Malabar. I do not of course want to decry the utility of the Taliparamba farm, but it is very far away from the railway line and is being almost wholly devoted to pepper cultivation. What we want in South Malabar is a paddy farm. It may be located either in Palghat, or somewhere in the Walavanad taluk near the railway line. The best thing to do is to take up on lease some land from the private jemmies and show to the people how best to improve the cultivation there; and if the Government are satisfied that it has answered its purpose, the operations can be transferred to another place. Thus, in the course of about twelve years, a series of places can be taken up and experimented on, and the utility of improved methods demonstrated to the people."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—"Sir, a great economist has said that taxation should be in proportion to the benefits received. We are getting enough of the benefits so far as the Reserved Departments are concerned. By this I mean we have enough of Divisional officers, District Magistrates, Superintendents, and so on. But so far as the Transferred Departments are concerned, we find very little, and that is especially the case with regard to the activities of the Agricultural Department. It was probably during the time of Lord Pentland that the Government were considering the question of opening a farm in the Gumsur division. I do not know the reason why it was given up. The hon. the Minister for Development has not yet thought it worth his while either to visit the district, or to think of any model farm either for paddy cultivation or for the sugar cultivation in the district of Ganjam. In this connexion, I may inform the House that zamindars like the Raja of Parlakimedi and others have done a great deal in the direction of demonstrating the single-seeding paddy cultivation and the introduction of the Barbados and Jamaica sugar and so on, while

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the Government have done nothing. I would therefore appeal to the hon. the Minister for Development not to forget the just claims of the Northern Circars in this direction, especially the Ganjam district."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I sympathize with the hon. the mover and the hon. the supporter of this motion in their demand for having a farm—I am using the word 'farm' cautiously—for Malabar. The hon. Members have themselves admitted that they have a farm in Taliparamba. I visited that place only quite recently, and I may say that the farm and the new school that is established in the farm itself, are worth a visit from any hon. Member of this House.

"On the question of the paddy supply of that district, Sir, of course my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, who is always accurate in his statements, must be correct when he quoted the figures and said that the district was capable of producing at present only half the quantity of paddy required for local consumption. How far this half production is due to the fact that the people of Malabar generally go in for gardens, and especially coconut gardens, and how far the coconut gardening system itself is a result of our land revenue system, it is not for me to say. But, Sir, I can assure the hon. Members that as soon as an opportunity affords itself, which means as soon as funds are available, it shall be my endeavour to open another farm in Malabar. But it will have to be remembered that there are other districts like Kistna and Godavari which have something like 12 lakhs of acres of land (including Guntur) actually cultivated with the river water without having any paddy demonstration, and my attempts to get money for them have so far failed. In these circumstances, I can only tell my hon. friends from Malabar that as soon as I succeed in getting a farm for these three delta districts, which at present pay the largest amount of irrigation revenue—just take Kistna, for instance,—I shall endeavour to get a farm for Malabar.

"As regards the Guntur division, the hon. Member from Ganjam has pressed the claims of another farm there. I am afraid, Sir, he will have to wait for a little more time; not indefinitely, but certainly until other earlier claims are satisfied. He can rest assured that the claims for Ganjam are not likely to be overlooked; for, to my right, he will find an hon. Member representing Ganjam (the hon. Mr. A. P. Patro), who will not allow any opportunity to be lost if there is any chance of getting money for it.

"I hope with this assurance my hon. friend will not press his motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Just a word, Sir. I am certainly thankful to my friend, the hon. the Development Minister, for the kind reply he has given me to the effect that he will as soon as possible open a paddy farm in Malabar. But I wish that he had made the statement that, instead of giving a farm first to the three districts of Guntur, Kistna and Godavari, he would first open a farm in South Malabar. It will be remembered, Sir, that the rivers which irrigate those three districts rise from the hills of the West Coast; and having regard to the irrigation facilities that exist there, I would have been glad if my hon. friend, the Minister, had preferred Malabar to those districts. However, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. the Minister for his kind words."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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MOTION No. 175.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I shall move, Sir, the following motion standing against my name as briefly as possible :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,69,000 for improvement of cotton cultivation by Rs. 100.

It may at once be seen, Sir, that my object is not to have any reduction at all, but to elicit certain informations from the hon. the Minister. It will be found that for a long time past our country has been, and for a long time to come it must be, an agricultural country; and any amount spent in the direction of improvement of agriculture is not money wasted. This being the case, I am sorry to find that in this matter of agriculture, our Minister is not able to provide for more. During the current year he budgeted for 16.58 lakhs and spent, or proposes to spend before the end of the year, only Rs. 14.49 lakhs, that is, less than what was budgeted for; and in the coming year he proposes to spend only 16.31 lakhs—a very miserable figure considering the number of people who are employed in agriculture. I should have expected that he would have fought very hard with his colleagues and got more money in order to show to the people how to improve their agriculture. But he seems to be the quietest of all our Ministers and to have allowed things to go on according as the Reserve Departments liked. That is the charge, Sir, that I have to lay against the hon. the Minister for Development: he is the quietest of all and satisfies himself with what little he gets.

"Then, Sir, so far as this subject is concerned, if we can only find more work for the agriculturists by means of demonstrations, their hands will be fully employed on agricultural operations and they will not at all be tempted to break out into riots or commit any other offence. Then there will not be much necessity for the police or even for the courts, because their hands will be fully employed and Satan will not be able to find any work for these busy hands to do. Therefore, Sir, by our Minister trying to get as much funds from the Government as possible and utilizing the money for the purpose of giving increased benefits to the people, he will be not only doing good to the people, but will thereby be effecting a great retrenchment by reducing the police and the courts, because people will never have any occasion to commit any offence. They will be fully employed in agricultural operations for their own benefit and the benefit of their country.

"As regards the improvement of cotton cultivation, a lump sum of Rs. 1,69,000 has been provided in the budget. About the same amount seems to have been spent year after year, but no details are given as to what the improvements of this cotton cultivation are and where these improvements are effected. So far as I know, Sir, my district has recently got only one demonstrator who seems to be acquainted only with agricultural operations with reference to paddy and other grains and knows nothing about cotton at all. There are some taluks in my district which grow cotton, and in the Ceded districts, you know, Sir, as well as anybody else here, that there is a large amount of cotton cultivation going on. I wish to know what improvements have been effected with the object of getting more lands cultivated, and getting more cotton produced which may benefit the people at large. We have no details at all given in the budget and I wish to know what the details for these Rs. 1,69,000 are, where this amount will be spent and whether the Ceded districts will get any share in this amount."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I thank the hon. Member, Sir, for the kind words with which he in fact supported me in making this motion. He told the House that perhaps I was a very quiet Minister and that therefore I was not able to get more money for the departments under me. Well, Sir, if by 'quiet' is meant 'without going beyond order and peace,' I can assure my hon. friend that I have done my best, and struggled as hard as man can struggle, to get as much money as I can. But unfortunately we have to pass through too many seas. There are two Departments through which we have to pass. First there is the Finance Department which is a very hard task-master, and it is so very difficult to show and convince them that a particular work is urgent and that it is necessary to obtain funds for it.

" The new have another task-master, viz., the Finance Committee. There, they divide all the works into a number of classes :
 3-15 p.m. the first class, the second class, the third class and the fourth class. The first class alone is deemed urgent and funds are provided for ; the second class is considered important and is provided for if there are funds available ; the third class includes works which are necessary, but for which funds cannot be provided ; and the fourth class comprises schemes which are not considered at all. As far as my schemes in this as well as in the Industries Department are concerned there are enough in my hands which would simply double this amount that is given me ; and if I am not able to get more money it is not because I have not been struggling to get it, but because, as my hon. friend put it, I have been quiet in the sense that I yielded to law and reason.

" As regards the demand for more Demonstrators, I am at one with my friend, the hon. mover, and I shall do my best to put in as many Demonstrators as possible. As I have already stated in another connexion, two things have to be considered here. One is the output from the colleges. The number of students turned out is very small, and we cannot bring in other people. They must be persons who have been trained in agriculture and I cannot take in a graduate or an undergraduate or an ordinary school-final man for this purpose. Our production in the college is naturally limited, but it will be a matter of consolation to know that not a single student who has gone out of the college is left without employment. The second difficulty is the financial difficulty.

" Coming now to the motion before the House, I may at once be permitted to mention to the hon. Member that this large sum of money, as he calls it, is intended for the purpose of improving cotton cultivation and cotton production in this Presidency. What is done is this. The Agricultural Department selects seeds or it produces seeds on its own farms, what are known as strain seeds. It may be by selection, it may be by importation or by whatever process, the best seeds are obtained. They are distributed to the ryots so that they may cultivate their lands with them only and without permitting them to get mixed up with other seeds. When the crop is ready for harvesting, our officers go and purchase from them all the cotton with the seed. The Department takes the seed out of the cotton and takes the precaution for the purpose of seeing that that particular seed does not get mixed up in the gunny factory with the other seeds. For, when once adulteration gets in the whole thing is useless. So, in order to preserve the purity of the seed, we

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purchase Caboo, get the seed out of it and then store it. With the seeds that we have thus collected, we go to the country again and distribute them over more fields; because, this time the seeds will have doubled, trebled and quadrupled themselves. They are again multiplied and the result is that we are expanding cultivation of cotton with the best variety. My hon. friend referred to his own district. I admit that not much has been done in Cuddapah. It is only in Kurnool and Bellary that cotton work is carried on at present. In Bellary, we distributed 131 pounds of what is known as H. 25 for sowing 131 acres. In Kurnool where the season was not favourable we distributed 89,000 pounds sufficient to sow 89,000 acres. I have got the figures to show the work done in other districts and there are details also for the figures given in the Budget. I am prepared to give details to my hon. friend to show what these are for. It is only for these transactions of purchasing Caboos and then obtaining seeds and redistributing them to the farmers that this grant is intended. It will therefore be seen that this is a very useful provision.

"In this connexion, I should like to draw the attention of the House to certain remarks made by Mr. Martin Liège, M.A., Director of Agriculture in the United Provinces, India, who was requisitioned by the Egyptian Government where as you all know excellent cotton is grown. Having investigated into the needs of that country in cotton production, he makes certain suggestions which exactly tally with the measures which we had taken in this country long before he went to Egypt. This report is dated 1920, and here is what he says :

As a result of such comparative trials under different environmental conditions, the number of races which survive eliminations will be comparatively small. For these, further trials on a field scale and an organization for multiplying up a seed supply under conditions which will ensure purity are required.

The degree of supervision here required is such that direct and complete control by the Ministry is essential. For, Sir, in our country this complete control is exercised by the Minister through the Director of Agriculture.

From the seed supply so produced distribution will be made to extra ministerial agencies, and here, for the first time, direct contact with the public will be reached. As I have stated above, the amount of seed that can be produced under such rigid control will be, under any organization, practicable, but an iota of that required to sow even one type tract. Control and the organization which accompanies cannot, therefore, cease here. That seed must be issued to a circle of selected and more reliable cultivators, with whom arrangements for the repurchase of the crop, for the purpose of increasing the seed supply, are possible. These cultivators will, in the following year, be supplied with a fresh stock from the directly controlled Government stock, while the seed recovered from them is issued to a further set of cultivators.

"These are the recommendations of an expert whose services were requisitioned by the Egyptian Government and I expect that these instructions must have been followed by that Government in a country where cotton is of the excellent quality produced. This is the very method that we are now following in our country much earlier than from 1920. It will be seen therefore that the method we are pursuing is scientific and is accepted by experienced men. I do not think that I have anything else to say except that I shall bear in mind the suggestions made by my hon. friend which, in fact, I am following as far as possible. I therefore hope that he will not press his motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn

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MOTION No. 176.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ I formally move the motion standing against my name—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,500 for travelling allowance by Rupees 1,500.

My object is to get this item reduced and brought down to the figure which was actually spent according to the Revised Estimate for 1922-23. There was budget allotment for Rs. 9,000 in the current year, but only Rs. 7,000 have been spent. I cannot understand why, instead of giving that figure, an increase of Rs. 1,500 has been shown against this item of travelling allowance.

“ On page 176 of the Budget, there is one other matter to which I would like to invite the attention of the hon. the Minister for Development. Against the establishment charges an amount of only Rs. 17,100 is shown, while under travelling allowance we have this large sum of Rs. 8,500 which comes to nearly 50 per cent of the amount spent on the establishment, and I should like to have a clear statement from him as to whether he means real business and whether it will be prudent to spend Rs. 8,500 on travelling allowance, while the establishment itself comes only to Rs. 17,200. It works out to nearly 50 per cent. I think that this travelling allowance should be cut down by Rs. 1,500.”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ As this item was a very small one I did not think that it would be cut down. If I explain what this work means, the hon. mover will at once see the point. This is intended for the establishment for the eradication of palmyra disease in the Kurnool and Guntur districts. Operations are now carried on in a portion of the Agency division in the Kistna and Godavari districts, and in Repalle in Guntur. The staff employed consists of a Deputy Collector, occasionally 2 Tahsildars, 12 Revenue Inspectors, 1 Clerk and 16 Peons. In other words 32 persons will have to do this work, and when it is known what their work consists in, it will be seen that we are giving this travelling allowance because the salary itself is not much. The fact is this. The salary is not much because the officers on this work are not permanent. They belong to the Revenue Department. The services of these officers are indented upon and taken for a definite period when the disease is prevailing, and their daily work is constantly to travel from tree to tree, place to place, village to village and taluk to taluk, and see that the heads of the affected trees are chopped off and that other instructions given are carried out. When it is remembered that something like 32 persons have to be constantly on their legs and when it is also remembered that in 1919-20 the travelling charge was Rs. 9,521, in 1920-21 Rs. 11,865 and in 1921-22 Rs. 8,895, this item will not be found fault with. It is no doubt true that only a sum of Rs. 7,000 was spent in the year 1922-23 under this item. But I am told that this was due to a temporary cause, because some officer could not take charge or for some other reason. The amount was very small and the work done was very good. As the hon. the Revenue Member says, he was not able to spare the services of the Deputy Collector because he had to go on leave. That is why the travelling allowance was not much in 1922-23.”

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Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I accept the statement and I beg to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 177.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,97,141 for Agriculture by one lakh.

My object in tabling this motion was this. The report of the Retrenchment Committee is almost ready. I should like to know if the hon. the Minister will take it up and pass orders so that its recommendations may be given effect to from 1st April. I expected that retrenchment to the extent of one lakh can be effected in the Agricultural Department and Rs. 25,000 in the Veterinary Department. The recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee will lead to a saving of less than one lakh in the Agricultural Department and much more than Rs. 25,000 in the Veterinary Department. I only want to know if the hon. the Minister will take the report at once. I want also to request him to see his way to appoint a committee for the Industries Department."

The hon. Raj Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"So far as the Industries Department is concerned, the paper was delayed as I was engaged in some other deliberations. Certainly, Sir, the head of the Department will be associated with a few members and they will go into the whole question just as in the Agricultural Department. As regards the Agricultural Department, I shall certainly set to work as soon as the report reaches me."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I shall be very brief in my remarks. I would suggest for the consideration of the hon.

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the Minister for Agriculture the amalgamation of the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments. In fact, something in that line is already being done. If I understand rightly, I find from the annual report of the Co-operative Societies that in the Tamil and West Coast districts the departmental heads meet in conference, and they find that this arrangement works very satisfactorily. As a result of this conference there has been in the last few months much closer and effective co-operation in the departments. That is one thing I submit for the hon. the Minister's consideration.

"Another thing that I would submit for his consideration is that the Agricultural Department is top-heavy. I would plead for a large number of hands at the bottom and a smaller number at the top.

"The third thing that I would submit for his consideration is that the services should be indianized. I know that the hon. the Minister has done something in this direction and I am grateful to him for that, but I submit more remains to be done. At present, the Department serves as a stepping stone for European officers, and after a few months, when they pick up some experience, they leave the Department once for all, perhaps with some pension also.

"The fourth point that I would submit for the consideration of the hon. the Minister is that the Principal of the Agricultural College should be a person having some knowledge and experience of the district work and not merely an officer who is doing research work without knowing any executive work. These are the points which I would submit for his consideration."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"On the first question, namely, the amalgamation of the two Departments, I am afraid that we should not attach much importance to the extract which my hon. friend has referred to. Of course, co-operation between the two Departments is essential. It is not merely that we want co-operation between the Agricultural Department and the Co-operative Department, but in fact it is something more. When addressing a conference of Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies some time back, I impressed on them the necessity of co-operating on the one hand with the Agricultural Department, and, on the other hand, with the Industries Department—with the Agricultural Department in so far as they might bring into existence societies for production, societies for common sale of produces, and societies for the purchase of manure; and with the Industries Department with a view to start societies which would develop industries that can convert agricultural produce into finished articles. So that, my idea is where—for instance, in a district like Bellary, which my hon. friend represents—cotton is grown, I should like to have a society of agriculturists who should collect all the cotton and sell it. On the other hand, I should like also to have a society of agriculturists who can buy it and convert it into yarn and cloth by having their own factories, so that we may be a self-contained country so far as at least cotton cloth is concerned. This has been my aim, but it will take some time before this Department—a National Department I may say; that word I have myself used so often—will be able to do all that I have enumerated above. Until this Department develops to a certain extent, we have stupendous work to do in all the departments, and when the final stage is reached I may say we shall have reached the state of manhood."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 178.

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,97,41 for Agriculture by Rs. 1,000.

The House might remember that I made certain observations on agriculture during the general discussion on the Budget and there were other members also who spoke on this question. From the reply the hon. the Minister for Development made, I thought I detected a personal note and that he seemed to have felt that we had not been sufficiently grateful to him for all that was being done by the Department."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I never meant anything of that sort, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—"I think he said that we were not fully acquainted with the doings of the Agricultural Department, that again and again we made ill-informed references to the policy and action of the works of that Department, and that he wanted the Members of this House to get themselves more acquainted with the contents of the book dealing with agriculture once again. After the advice had been given, I went through the book patiently and studiously, and I found that it only confirmed me in the impression I originally had. My complaint was rather that the benefit of the knowledge of the various officers employed in the Department and of the results of their researches had not been extended as far as they ought to have been or as the ryot would have a right to expect.

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This book only goes to confirm this belief. I shall not take up much of your time by going through the several portions of the book in order to show to you the propriety of my observations. I would draw your attention only to three passages in this book which, I submit, will show that the good which the Agricultural Department is capable of doing is not being done. On page 72, the authors of the book take care to repel the view that the ryots in India are very conservative, and that they will not take to new methods of agriculture and cultivation even if it is profitable. Fortunately that view is being repelled, and it is stated that the ryot, who is very often described as a conservative being, has not been found to be so from the experience of the Agricultural Department. Another point on which this book comes to a irrefutable conclusion is this. On page 77 it is stated :

It will be seen from the above account of this district that there still remains a large area of the Presidency untouched.

“One other page which I would like to refer to is page 780; and I would also draw attention to the succeeding pages forming Appendix A. There you will find, according to those who are responsible for the suggestion of new methods of agriculture, what possibly the estimated gains might be if these new methods are followed to the extent they are capable of, and it will be found that the end achieved and the possible estimated gain are altogether disproportionate. In fact, you may almost say that a very small percentage of gain is achieved. Putting this in another way, I think it means that when the full gain is reached, there is very much loss to the country. What appears to me is this: whatever information the Agricultural Department is capable of disseminating is not widely disseminated. Therefore, it ought to be the endeavour of the Department to disseminate information as widely as possible so that the information that is available to them, and the researches they may make, may be taken advantage of by the ryots. Of course if there is enough of money, research works may be undertaken to the extent that their result would be advantageous to the people. It is in the best interests of the country that the results of these researches should be made as widely known as possible; but this can only be done by having a large number of Demonstrators than at present. My hon. friend has pointed out that one of the difficulties in complying with this suggestion is that Government have not got enough of qualified Demonstrators. This appears to me to be a ground which is altogether untenable. It shows that there has been something wrong in the way in which these Demonstrators have been brought up, and that there is something wrong in the way in which they are asked to be qualified. Then, it must be remembered that this Department has been in existence for over thirty years and reorganization has taken place so early as 1905; but when we ask what is the outturn of work that this Department has effected for the benefit of the people, it is stated that it is premature to expect any good results in so short a time and so on. It is perfectly clear that this Department has not been doing its duty for some time past. I shall be glad to know what are exactly the duties that the head of this Department has to discharge. What I want is that much greater attention should be paid to the work of demonstration so that people may profit by all the information which this Department is capable of giving them.”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—“I have no quarrel with the hon. the mover of this motion so far as the remarks made

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have a reference to the methods to be pursued by the Agricultural Department. I quite admit that it is essential that we should look to dissemination of knowledge, namely, of the results attained in the Agricultural College, on the farm and in the Research Institute. But, Sir, I must take exception to the inference which he was pleased to draw from this book. For instance he referred to page 72 where it is stated that

the ryot is very often being described as conservative, but this has not been the experience of the Agricultural Department.

This observation was made there only to show how it became possible within the short period at the disposal of the Agricultural officers to be able to achieve such good results in the face of the circumstances stated in the appendix to the book. Here, they have been able to show a net profit of 2½ crores of rupees within these years. For one reason or another I cannot accept the debiting processes suggested by the Department. Well, that should not have been possible if the ryot was really conservative and would not take to new methods of agriculture. What the authors of the book meant was that it was not everybody who was so conservative, but that the ryots were not so very forward as to take full advantage of the results of the Research Institute and the work of the Agricultural Department. If only the public were more eager to take to new methods, the results would have been doubled or trebled. Therefore, Sir, no inference should be drawn.

“My hon. friend quoted page 77 in which it is stated :

it will be seen from the above account of the district work that there still remains a very large area which is untouched by the Agricultural Department,

and drew the inference that his observation was correct, namely, that the work of the Department had not been giving results that were expected out of it. I may mention in this connexion that we have 39 million acres of arable lands and 29 million agriculturists, and is it possible to expect that within the last 15 or 17 years, with the limited staff at our disposal and with the shortness of funds that we are able to command, we should be able to do a far better work? The wonder for the hon. Members is that with all the research work we have not been able to do much. I admit that we are not much farther than what we were. But what I say is that the Department has done more than what can be expected of it commensurate with the funds that were available and the staff at its disposal. In this connexion I may say that this Department is not getting as much money from the Government as it wishes to obtain. Here I have a statement showing how large sums are being spent in other countries. It will be noticed from that statement that in British Isles they spend on agricultural knowledge 3¼ d per head; in Canada they spend 2/10 d; in United States of America 2/7 d; in France 6¾ d; in Italy 6/11 d; in Japan 4¾ d; and in the Union of South Africa 3/1 d; whereas the Madras Presidency spend only ½ d per head.”

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR :—“I wish the hon. the Minister gives the respective incomes also.”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“I have not been able to get those figures. But this is sufficiently wide. There are sufficient materials here to show that in this country we are only spending half a penny per head. When compared with the industrial countries, the agricultural population must be larger here

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than elsewhere. It will be noticed that what we have been doing here is very small. I hope the day will be reached when more money will be placed at the hands of the Department and when all that is expected of the Department can be done. Sir, if I may use a domestic phrase, if omelettes are to be made, eggs have to be supplied. Unfortunately, I am not supplied with eggs."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"Honestly I should say, Sir, I am not satisfied with the explanation given by the hon. Member. It is, if you will allow me to say so, a sort of special pleading that he has now made. He has not given any assurance which I have a right to expect from one in his position. My point is that greater pains should be taken for the purpose of securing more information than the Agricultural Department now possesses. I find no words of assurance from him as to this. Then he read certain figures which he had compiled for the purpose of showing how little is being spent in this country and in this Presidency particularly. Now, Sir, it is an argument with which my hon. friend is familiar, and I have no doubt that my hon. friend has himself used it on platforms in his pre-official days that you must compare not merely the tax that you pay but also your capacity to pay the tax when you take into consideration the figures of other countries. If my hon. friend had applied for the agricultural income in the various countries and shown what proportion the tax they pay bears to their income, then whatever inference he draws will meet with better response than the arguments that he has now advanced. I find that my hon. friend is doing his very best in so far as it lies in his power to do. I find that no good will come even if I press the motion. In these circumstances I withdraw it."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 179.

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR:—"I beg to move—"

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,97,141 for Agriculture by Rs. 100.

I wish to say a few words with regard to my motion. No doubt I have generally dealt in the last two Budget speeches with regard to the heavy expenditure involved in the maintenance of the Agricultural College, the professors, the experimental demonstration farms, and the construction of buildings and quarters for the costly establishments drafted from England. I have been of opinion, and still am of opinion, that the outlay under these heads of expenditure is out of all proportion to the measure of benefit which the ryots have received as a result of this heavy expenditure. I am told not only by the members of Government, but also by the hon. Members of this Council, that the benefits cannot be immediately realized, and that we shall have to wait till some later date for the proper carrying out of the scheme. I am not inclined to be quite so optimistic, because I cannot forget that we shall be casting a burden not only on the present but also on the future generation, if the extravagant schemes that we may support result in failure. We have had such experiments already in several schemes. It is admitted even by the ardent supporters of the various agricultural schemes that we are merely in the stage of experiment. My only contention is that the plan for the carrying out of these experiments, the usefulness of which can be postulated only after a considerable lapse of time, need not be laid out on the extravagant scale the Department is adopting at present.

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"I would like to say a few words about the experimental and demonstration farms. It is true that by means of these farms the experience and activities of the Agricultural Department are imparted to the ryots. But there is no definite policy in regard to these. Wherever there is an experimental farm, there is a cry from the Government for a demonstration farm. From what I learn about the working of these farms in other countries, the experimental farm must, after a certain stage, be converted into a demonstration farm. The demonstration farm must be worked not on the lines on which the farms are now working; they must be made to pay the cost of the establishment. If that aim is kept in the forefront, I do not object to any number of agricultural farms being formed. In fact, they are necessary in every district. The experimental farms should be limited to a smaller number. Even the experimental work could be carried on by officers in charge of the demonstration farms without paying heavily for experiment also. Instead of working in this line we are presented with reports detailing the works that are being done, and any amount of statistics is supplied to us in the reports of the Agricultural Department. Unless these demonstration farms are proved to be self-supporting and profitable by the demonstrators or officers in charge of them, how will you be able to convince the ryot that the methods you found out by costly experiment on the farms will be useful and profitable to him? Therefore, I would suggest that these experimental farms might be converted into demonstration farms so that after some years at least they may be made to pay their own way and even show profit. For, wherever you open an agricultural farm, there you are investing lakhs and lakhs of money for acquisition of lands, buildings and other costly things. They must be treated as private estates, and it must be demonstrated that the income derived therefrom is in a much larger proportion than from the land of a neighbouring ryot who is doing work in his own primitive lines. I am told that in my own district the Anamalais farm is not answering the purpose for which it was opened. With regard to the cotton cultivation at the Koilpatti farm, it will be remembered that that farm has been in existence for a very long time. I do not know whether that at least is self-supporting and pays its own way. If after a certain amount of time it is found that the ryot has been following the methods advocated by the farm authorities, then the necessity for continuing the farm ceases. With regard to the experiment regarding the advancement of Cambodia cotton, the Government has already taken a line of work which is found to be a very cheap and useful one. In selected places agreements are made to supply the ryots with pure seeds and make them observe certain conditions and sell the cotton through the Department, and the purity of the seed is well maintained thereby. In this way the Department can do a lot of cheap, useful and convincing propaganda work.

"I wish to say also a few words on an important section of the Agricultural Department, viz., Agricultural Engineering Department. This Department, I believe, has been existing for a very long time. But can we mention at least one small implement which has been found out newly by this Department? I do not mean to say that the staff is insufficient. But what I complain is—and it is a complaint recorded also in one of the reports of the previous years—that there is no proper workshop provided for this Engineering section, and so it is a said right to see that they are

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not able to carry out their work. In following the experiments carried on in advanced western countries it must be remembered that the condition of things is quite different in many important respects from that in our country. Therefore anything that is said to be good elsewhere should not be blindly imitated here. It must be so modified as to suit our conditions. Even in highly advanced countries like America the recent news I got—perhaps it may be un-official—goes to show that even there they are not able to stop the cotton diseases for the eradication of which we have been moving earth and heaven. While the American people who are past-masters in that art are getting on like this, how can we justify our position in making costly adventures? So, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister some points which struck me: the District Agricultural officers should be more Indianised; costly research, experiments and buildings should be avoided; better trained men and men of proved ability should be selected as demonstrators; more demonstration farms should be opened and worked at a profit.

“Sir, one word more and I close. The hon. Minister always takes pleasure in replying to criticisms by saying that by arithmetical calculations the total yield of the Presidency has been considerably increased on account of the activities of his Department. But he has never referred to what would have been done by the ryots themselves to improve their land and to increase their yield even without this Department. I must, in any way, say, Sir, that merely quoting such huge figures will not at all convince even an intelligent person.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—“Sir, the only question which I wish to raise on this motion is about the provision made for agricultural education, notwithstanding the prominence given to it for several years past. In all the public conferences held during the last ten years, I believe there has been no question which has been pressed so much upon the attention of the Government as this question of agricultural education. I also remember, Sir, that in the pre-reformed Council, various resolutions were moved requesting the Government to start agricultural schools in various districts of the Presidency. We were aiming at a state of things where instead of being satisfied with one agricultural college, each district would have an agricultural high school or at least a middle school suited to the local conditions, so that they might impart knowledge to the persons in that locality. That was the ideal we were aiming at, and I remember various resolutions were moved and passed; and the hon. the Revenue Member, who was in charge of the department then, was telling us that he had every sympathy with the object and that the matter was under consideration and so forth. I believe the last reply was from the hon. Sir Alexander Cardew. I wish to know, Sir, whether the Government have arrived at any definite conclusion as to the policy to be pursued in the matter of agricultural education, as to whether there are any proposals under consideration for the purpose of establishing agricultural high schools or middle schools in the various districts of the Presidency. If these proposals have been under consideration, I wish to know definitely whether in the course of a few years—and if so, how many years?—it is proposed to establish such schools in the various centres. I attach great importance to the establishment of these schools, because it will not be possible for those who wish to profit by such education to go long distances and take advantage of the existing

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facilities. It is for the purpose of raising this issue and knowing whether the hon. the Minister has been able to arrive at a definite conclusion as to the policy of extending educational facilities, that I have tabled this motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I gave notice of a similar motion more with a view to draw the attention of the hon. the Minister, as I did last year, to the necessity for improving the present supply of artificial manures in the delta districts. I said last year that in many of the villages in the Gōdāvari and Kistna deltas, the village-site was being dug up for what is called *patimannu*; and if there is one case in which demonstration would be useful, it is this. While I peruse with interest the statistics given in this manual—'Popular Account of the Madras Agricultural Department'—I am not at all prepared under this motion to go into the statistics of the possible estimate of the annual gain per annum by the various Departments, etc. They are very interesting figures, and a good deal of credit is claimed under paddy for the introduction of various new methods. Well, Sir, there will be time enough to examine the correctness of these estimates. For the present I should like to impress upon the hon. the Minister the very urgent necessity that is felt for taking some steps to demonstrate actually in the districts concerned the methods by which this digging up of the *patimannu* can be prevented—by actual demonstration of whatever manures are available. It has been stated that some experiments have been made, and last year I brought to the notice of the hon. the Minister that the manure supplied by Messrs. Parry & Co. was not found satisfactory in the delta. I also complained to him that the railway rates were so prohibitive that they were adding to the cost of cultivation. I suggest that the best method of dealing with this question is for the Department to lease 300 or 400 acres of land—I do not say 'buy', for, if I say that, I am perfectly certain that my friend, the hon. the Finance Member, would say that I have put forward an extravagant and monstrous proposal,—on terms ordinarily existing at some convenient place close to the areas cultivated. Such of the manures which the Department have already investigated or in the efficacy of which they believe, may be put on the land and the advantages of adopting these new methods may be actually demonstrated to the ryots. Unless some such thing is done, I am afraid that the village sites already being cut up in a most deplorable manner will continue like that, very much to the disadvantage of the new Department of Public Health which is being constituted by the vote of this House. Co-ordination in such cases is absolutely necessary. Here is a Department of Public Health which complains of the pits made by the people five or six feet deep and sometimes even ten feet deep; for taking away the *pali* earth for use as manure; and you cannot prevent these agriculturists from taking it so long as that is the only manure available for their lands. I am certain the hon. Minister is perfectly aware of this matter, and various people who are trying to tackle the question of village sanitation have reported about the big pits that are being dug in the villages. In these circumstances, I say there is no more urgent problem than this problem of supply of manure to these villages. I may also say that some years ago some experiments were carried on at a cost of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000, and I suppose the results were successful. But the success can only be judged by the extent to which the recommendations of the Agricultural Department have been adopted in this respect. I once more say that there is no greater

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problem which is to be solved than this of finding a substitute for the *pattinamnu* in these two districts. This is the third time that I mention this matter in this Council. Of course there is an interesting statement in the book I named above. In Appendix A there is an item which gives the benefits which have accrued to the ryots in consequence of the various Departments. We find the growing of green manure as one of the improvements. We find that under the 'growing of green manure crops', which is one of the improvements, the area under improvement is 46,300 acres under paddy. The total estimated gain per annum is Rs. 4,64,300. The possible estimated gain is said to be one crore and seventy lakhs of rupees. Under 'economic transplantation' the possible estimated gain is said to be about ninety-five lakhs. Under 'application of concentrated manures' the area under improvement is about 11,000 acres and the possible estimated gain is Rs. 62,50,000. Apart from what is stated here, the only way in which the book will appeal to the ryots is by enabling him to see actually what the Department can do. If the hon. Minister will adopt my suggestion of taking a land on lease, and place an officer there in charge of it giving him the necessary facilities to supply manure, he will be able to demonstrate actually the usefulness of the artificial manures, and the agriculturists will take advantage of it. This is the only way by which the digging up of the village-site will cease. I don't think that this will cost very much to the Department. I, therefore, press this matter very strongly, and I am sure that the hon. the Minister who is certainly aware of the facts will take the necessary steps."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have tabled a similar motion more for the purpose of drawing the attention of the hon. the Minister to the progress that has to be made in the matter of the preparation of malted foods from Indian cereals. About three years have elapsed since the Department showed conclusively that scientifically it was possible to manufacture malted foods from Indian cereals, more especially from cholam. The Department says that it is yet to be proved whether this can be commercially successful. As I have submitted, three years have elapsed, and no progress appears to have been made yet. I should certainly think that if the Department was eager to substitute Indian made foods for foreign made foods it would have been certainly possible for them to prove with the establishment under their command that it is also commercially profitable. I am thankful, of course, to the hon. the Minister for Development for the small mercies that have been shown, for allotting a sum of Rs. 26,000 for toy manufacture, for allotting a sum of Rs. 21,000 for a sugarcane station at Anakapalle and for other things. But these must be considered to occupy a minor position compared with the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of malted foods in this province. Last year this time I expressed the fear that probably the reticence of the Department in the matter of proving that this would be commercially a success might have been due to the interference from Whitehall; and seeing that this question had not been taken up by the Department till now I am tempted to believe that probably the Government are not very anxious to prove that this is commercially also a possibility. I hope and trust that the hon. the Minister for Development will be able to do his best to prove that this can be made commercially all profitable and to provide funds next year for the purchase of machinery for the manufacture of malted foods."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Sir, it would perhaps be convenient if I approach the question from the last speaker. My hon. friend, Mr. Suryanarayana, has told us that three years have elapsed and no progress has been shown, and what is worse, that the Government have not been anxious to prove that the experiment is a success."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—" A commercial success."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Let me assure him that there is no interference from Whitehall in regard to this matter. It was only last year, if I am not mistaken, that my hon. friend moved this point and my reply was immediately communicated to the Industries Department. If he will just read the extract from the *Agricultural Journal* for the month of October 1922, he will see that we have not been idle. This is what it says :

At the present time, the malt used in brewing, or for the preparation of malted foods, consists almost exclusively of barley malt. As, however, the supply of barley in Southern India is exceedingly limited, it was obviously desirable, if such industries were to be encouraged, to ascertain whether some other commonly occurring grain might not be substituted for barley.

With this object in view, comparative tests were carried out by the Chemical Department using rice, cholam, ragi, tenai, cumbu and maize. The results of this investigation soon showed that of these grains cholam was by far the most suitable, being capable of yielding a malt of higher diastatic power. In view of the encouraging nature of these results, further work was at once instituted to ascertain the correct condition under which malting should be carried out with cholam, for it by no means followed that the same conditions which applied to barley would prove most suitable for cholam. These experiments have met with a very considerable amount of success and there is little doubt that a malt can readily be prepared from cholam suitable in every way for use in the preparation of malted foods. The utility of cholam malt for brewing purposes is, however, a more doubtful proposition, very definite properties being required in a malt designed for this purpose. Experiments are, however, continuing on this aspect of the question.

" So far as experiments in the laboratory are concerned, every effort is being made to arrive at definite results. But the hon. Member will realize that in order that the manufacture of malted food might be made a commercial concern any experiment in the laboratory on a small scale will not be of much use ; and I must confess that our laboratories are not fitted for experiments on a large scale. However, attempts are being made in this direction with the help of the Institute of Science at Bangalore where these experiments can be carried out. These industrial experiments take some time, and my hon. friend should not be dissatisfied simply because during the last two years, or even three years, definite results have not been achieved. It requires patient research and laborious work for a number of years, and it is only after a number of failures that success will come. However, I can promise this, namely, that until we succeed or until we definitely come to any conclusions, these experiments will be carried on and every attempt made to put a large quantity on the market.

" Turning to my hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao's criticisms: I am aware I come from the same district as he does, and that there is this *pati* nuisance in the districts of Gōdāvari and Kistna. House-sites are dug up and the earth is taken out and thrown into the fields. As far as my experience goes, it would be exceedingly difficult to convince the Kistna or the Gōdāvari ryot to take to chemical manures, and the only way of solving this problem is to see that there is no *pati* earth available in the villages. As regards the introduction of chemical manures, the remarks of my hon. friend last year

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were communicated to the Department of Agriculture; certain replies have been received, and certain action has been taken on the matter satisfying those criticisms.

“So far as the railway authorities are concerned, there was a Conference last year with the representatives of the South Indian and Southern Mahratta Railways and we came to certain terms. We could not arrive at a final agreement, and the matter was pursued further by the Directors of Agriculture and Industries. Again, during this year, and quite recently, at a Conference of the Deputy Directors of Agriculture, all the principal manuring firms were invited and a scheme of co-operation was worked out for opening depots in various districts where these chemical manures could be supplied. This is a step which, I am sure, my hon. friend will appreciate, and he will see that the Ministry and the Department of Agriculture have not been idle and his criticisms have not been thrown on deaf ears.”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“My point is that the officers should demonstrate the use of these manures before the people, so that they may see the results with their own eyes.”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“I am coming to it. I have just said what steps have been taken. As regards the suggestion that we must lease 200 or 300 acres of land in the deltaic districts and demonstrate by actually applying scientific manures and cultivating those fields, my only fear is that it will not be an easy matter to acquire 200 or 300 acres in one plot. My hon. friend knows with what attachment the ryot clings to his land. If my hon. friend and others will assist the Department in leasing out one block of 200 acres of typical land in a suitable area, certainly, Sir, we shall consider how we can manage the affair. It is not because we are not willing to do anything. . . .”

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—“May I say that if the Department is prepared to pay the actual rent prevailing and not bargain for a lower rent, I think the difficulty is not insurmountable?”

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“All that I can tell the hon. Member is this, that in the Samalkot farm we have 12 acres of land leased out by a certain person and I have not passed a single week within the last five months during which the man did not come and trouble me for the return of the land. As for the rent, it is not below what he gets from others for similar plots. As I said, my hon. friend should co-operate with us and see if we can get some land, though not 200 acres, at least half of that in a suitable area. There are so many difficulties. It is not enough if we can get only ordinary land. We require some typical land to get the expected results. The suggestion will, however, be communicated to the Director of Agriculture, and his opinion obtained and every attempt will be made to meet the wishes of the hon. Members.

“Now to my hon. friend Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao's remarks: I can say that the agricultural schools hitherto opened were experimental schools as the hon. Member himself knows. Now, Sir, the Palaparamba and the Anakapalle schools were opened only last year, but one or two years will not be sufficient to justify the results of experiments; it would take a little more time. However, I may mention another circumstance, namely, that the Director of Agriculture is just now engaged in considering the question

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of introducing vernacular as the medium of instruction in agricultural schools and by that process the number of schools will be increased, because it is found that those who go to the Agricultural College are persons who want to get some employment soon after leaving the college, and that those who come to our schools are not sufficiently educated even in their vernaculars. We want the type of pupils who will be educated in our schools and then go to the fields and utilize the knowledge thus gained on their own farms. In order to achieve this we thought that the experiment of introducing vernacular in the lower classes should be tried, and that question is just now engaging the attention of the Director of Agriculture. I hope something will come of it soon.

"As regards my hon. friend, Mr. Vellingiri Goundar, I have not quite followed his argument. For one thing, he said that no definite policy was followed. I may bring to his notice the Government Order issued under the heading 'Demonstration of Improved Methods—Policy of Government'. In this G.O. No. 210, dated 11th September 1922, the policy of Government is enunciated. I can only place a copy at his disposal and I do not wish to trouble the House at this late hour with any extracts from it.

"As regards the extension of demonstration, every attempt is being made as far as funds permit. On page 175 of the Budget, the hon. Member will find Rs. 8,000 provided for demonstration work on fields. As regards the Agricultural Engineer, the work that is now done by this officer is certainly better than what it was before.

"There is one other charge, viz., that the Department is very extravagant. I can only confront this charge with the statement of my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhacharlu, who has felt with me that I cannot get sufficient money for this Department. I should like to leave the matter to be settled between the two hon. Members. All that I can say is that it will always be my endeavour to see that the best results are achieved for the money spent by this Department."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR :—"I have no objection to propaganda work. My only objection was to the present costly methods and that there was no definite policy laid down by Government regarding the same."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand No. XX. Agriculture for a sum not exceeding 14.54 lakhs was put to vote and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXI—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding
4-30 p.m. Rs. 5.52 lakhs under Demand XXI. Civil Veterinary Services."

The demand was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXII—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted under Demand XXII. Co-operative Societies a sum not exceeding Rs. 6.18 lakhs."

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MOTION No. 180.

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,18,400 for Co-operative Credit by Rs. 100.

In moving this motion, I have to explain that I was not present when the hon. the Minister replied to my points on co-operation during the general discussion of the Budget, and I am very sorry that I was not here then. He mentioned in the course of his reply during the general debate that he did not want to see the condition of Ireland repeated in this province. He evidently mistook my intention. My intention was that this province being mainly agricultural a strong system of co-operative credit should be established to redeem the agriculturists from the three great curses that befall the agricultural classes in this country, namely (1) the money-lender, (2) the failure of rains and (3) the lawyers."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"The zamindar is the fourth curse."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I may say the zamindars are not, unless they follow the profession of lawyers.

"I want to impress upon the Government that if the agricultural labourer or the agriculturist be redeemed from the clutches of the moneylender it is very necessary that a system like the one followed in Ireland by Sir Horace Plunkett and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, should be followed here. Agricultural co-operative credit societies should be organised in each district by which the cultivating tenant may be able to get money at a cheap rate of interest for buying his manure, his seed and his cattle, and may not be indebted to the money-lender. Because what happens now is that whenever the agriculturist wants money he resorts to the money-lender who catches hold of him by advancing the money, and when the harvest is ready, he takes hold of all the crops for the interest due to him and the agriculturist goes on for ever indebted to the money-lender. What happens in the end is this: the money-lender buys up the land belonging to the cultivator, and the agricultural classes thus become poorer day by day. I therefore think that it is in the interest of Government and not only in the interests of the tenants, that a strong policy of co-operative credit should be followed on the basis of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society so that a strong and vigorous peasantry may arise."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, my hon. friend has unfortunately misunderstood me, and he alone is responsible for it. For, when I was thinking of the Irish conditions I was not thinking of what my hon. friend said with regard to the one circumstance of co-operative credit. I went on to say, besides that aspect, that the Irish conditions did not fit in with the other conditions obtaining in this country. So far as that one condition is concerned, the Department is now doing everything in its power in the matter of the development of co-operation in villages, and on that matter, there is really no difference of opinion between my hon. friend and myself."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand XXII. Co-operative Societies for a sum not exceeding Rs. 6.18 lakhs was then put and carried and the grant was made.

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DEMAND XXIII—CINCHONA.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 4.01 lakhs under Demand XXIII. Cinchona."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXIV—INDUSTRIES.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I beg to move Demand XXIV. Industries for a sum not exceeding Rs. 17.74 lakhs."

MOTION No. 181.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I move—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 33,678 for Boring Maistris by Rs. 100.

Sir, I move it just to elicit information from the hon. the Minister for Development on one point and to make one suggestion. I wish to speak about the power drill. Sir, these power drills are instruments for the purpose of drilling holes in wells if rocks are met with at the bottom. They are particularly useful for well-digging and the advantages derived from the use of these instruments known as power drills are very great. There is a very great demand for them from cultivators. Unfortunately, the Department now possesses only two instruments of this kind. One of them is an old-fashioned one, and I believe it is now employed somewhere in the Trichinopoly district. The other one is an up-to-date instrument and is a very useful one. I have myself had occasion to use it and have found personally that it is very useful for well-digging. It is now used by the Government for their purpose in the Agricultural College at Coimbatore and is not now available for the use of the public, though it was available last year. It will, in addition to its great use in helping well irrigation, also bring considerable profit to Government. According to the rules of the Department persons to whom the instrument is lent for well-boring purposes have to supply labour, and the necessary materials for working the instrument such as oil and fuel; they have also to pay the transport charges of the instrument. In addition to all these, a sum of Rs. 5 per day is to be paid to the Government for the use of the instrument. The instrument itself is not after all a very costly one. A sum of Rs. 45,000 is to be found in the budget for 1923-24, as receipts to be expected on account of the use of this power drill and on account of some other instruments. So that, if the Department invests some amount on the purchase of these power drills, it will be extremely useful to the cultivating tenants who take to well-irrigation, and it will also be a paying concern to the Government. I therefore hope that the hon. the Minister for Development will find it possible to invest some money in the purchase of some more of these instruments. As I said, it will be not only a great boon to the public, but it will also pay the Government."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, at present the Department owns six power drills and 47 hand drills, and I think that these are not sufficient. For the last two years, we have been trying our best to get some money from the Finance Department for purchasing more drills. This year, a demand was made by the Director who addressed the Government for sanction to purchase six power drills and 16

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hand drills. Owing to financial stringency the proposals were negative. I shall however try—it may look as if I have tried too long—to get some money for this purpose, because Government realize the importance of this branch of work. If money becomes available, certainly more of these instruments will be purchased.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 182.

Mr. A. M. MacDOUGALL :—“ Mr. President, I beg to move the resolution in my name, namely :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,000 for purchase of materials by Rs. 10,000.

In doing so, Mr. President, I bear in mind what the hon. the Minister for Development said in his speech during the general discussion on the Budget when he replied to my remarks that a great part of the money was spent on the purchase of oil and coal for the purpose of producing power. I hope he will now be able to tell us what proportion of it is spent for oil and also how much is spent on materials for construction purposes. My principal reason in moving for this reduction is found in page 185 of the Budget under the headings, ‘ Madras Trades School ’ and ‘ Madras Leather Trades Institute. ’ There, I find Rs. 3,000 appear to be sufficient for expenditure on purchase of materials for the Trades School and Rs. 12,000 for the Leather Institute. It seems very strange to me at least that on an institute in the mufassal in a small district the Department can afford to spend Rs. 22 thousand and odd. It is an institute of which the success, I am told, is very doubtful; whereas in the Presidency city we have two institutes which, I am told,—quite recently in a report furnished by the hon. the Minister—are a huge success. I do not wish to say further on this particular subject.”

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, there seems to be some misapprehension on this point. The reduction proposed by the hon. Member will, I fear, seriously interfere with the efficiency of the Madura Industrial Institute, which is an educational institution, the only one of its kind in the South. The educational policy recommended by the Sadler Commission depends for its success on the happy results attending the efforts made both by the Education Department and the University of Madras to wean students from purely literary courses and to create in them a taste for vocational or technical courses, or industrial or commercial pursuits. Whether there should be two different institutions, one providing for literary courses and the other for technical or vocational courses, or, whether both these courses are to be combined, are questions which are engaging the attention of educationists in this Presidency. Whatever may be the decision with regard to the education of the future or the means for creating this bias for vocational courses, there can be no doubt on this one subject, namely, of strongly encouraging all those industrial or technical schools that already exist. This Madura Industrial Institute is not an unsuccessful institute, as my hon. friend remarked. It is a very flourishing institution, and there is hardly sufficient hostel accommodation for the apprentices; and certainly, Sir, there is a demand for more skilled workmen, demand for more trained mechanics, and demand for more skilled foremen in the southern

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districts, I should say, with their oil engines, with their rice mills, and with their ginning factories. Therefore, I fear that while there is a demand for more skilled workmen and for better and ampler hostel accommodation, this reduction will produce the very opposite result to the one which is desired by everybody ardently wishing to see the expansion of technical education in this Presidency.

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“Again, Sir, I think the provision of materials here is not so much for finished articles, but for purposes of instruction : to teach the students attending the institution the different uses to which the parts of the machinery are to be put or the manner of handling the machinery with a view to enable them to make repairs to set their machines going. Again, Sir, I do not think that the institution is run at a loss ; for, if the savings effected under the head of receipts could be mentioned by the hon. the Minister, I think it would be found that the institution is worked without any very great loss, or even should there be a loss of a few thousands of rupees, say, Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000, I do not think that these losses should be pronounced to be very serious, especially when it is remembered that this is an educational institution satisfying a real demand and promising to be the means of expanding industries in the southern districts. Therefore, I am sorry that the hon. mover has moved for this reduction at a time when there is a demand for more schools of this nature.”

Diwan Bahadur Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTIYAR :—“Sir, I am really thankful to my hon. friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, who has testified to the usefulness of the institution. But I should like to know for my information, from my hon. friend, the Minister for Development, whether these Rs. 22,000 do not give any receipts which would go to balance expenditure. My hon. friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, has mentioned that the institution is a very profitable one, but I believe from what I heard that the institution has got something like receipts which is not mentioned here. I ask for this information to make sure that we are not wasting the money under this head.”

Mr. E. F. THOMAS :—“Mr. President, I want to say a few words before the hon. the Minister makes his remarks by way of reply. After the able defence which has proceeded from the hon. Member on the opposite side of the House (Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar), there is just one point which it may be worth while to elucidate for the information of the hon. the mover, and that is the conclusion which he drew from a comparison of the Madura Technical Institute with the Madras Trades School and the Leather Training Institute in respect of the purchase of materials. The Madras Trades School, as the hon. Mr. MacDougall is aware, is conducted as a night school, and the students there are apprentices actually employed in firms, who, after having finished their work with their employers, come to the Institute to supplement their theoretical training by attending lectures which necessarily have a certain practical bias. But the main part of the work of the Madras Trades School is theoretical, and the theoretical teaching is imparted by lectures. In the Technical Institute at Madura, on the other hand, the apprentices undergoing or desiring to undergo training, come in without any previous technical training whatever. They are raw hands, and they have to be taught, and given practical training on machines, and it is our object at that Institute to turn out unskilled lads after a period of five years' training as practical

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workmen accustomed to do a hard day's work and that in a skilled manner. Obviously, in using human material like that, it is necessary to provide more material to them to work upon.

"As regards the Leather Trades School, the material there is confined to leather which is being tanned. In that Institute and in the Madura Institute, I would like to mention, in reply to the question put by my hon. friend, Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar, as to whether the receipts balance the expenditure, that I cannot give the figures off-hand. The receipts have not balanced the expenditure during the past year, but I have some hope that next year they will do so. I should like to express my gratitude, as Director of the Department of Industries, to Mr. MacDougall for having given this institute of Madura so welcome a publicity by the motion which he has brought forward. No doubt it will make the institution better known among the people."

The hon. Rao Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, perhaps I may first answer the question put by Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar which will also partially answer some of the points raised by my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall. Sir, of the Rs. 47,000 which make up the total, Rs. 22,000 come under materials and Rs. 25,000 under wages of workmen. It will be seen that Rs. 4,000 are required for coal, Rs. 3,000 for oil, making up a total of Rs. 7,000, and this would leave an amount of Rs. 40,000. Out of this amount I would take . . ."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—"I did not deal with the question of wages at all."

The hon. Rao Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I am trying to show whether there is a loss or not. Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar wanted to know whether the institute was working at a loss, and if so, what that loss was; and so, I cannot take up one question only and omit the other. Out of these Rs. 40,000, I would take the wages including the wages paid to the apprentices. You certainly cannot get your money back, the object being to train these workmen in the institute, and unless we pay them, they will not work. The balance is Rs. 38,654. The receipts come to Rs. 36,000, so that the loss, if it can be called a loss, is Rs. 2,654. I admit that this is not accounting on a commercial basis, but taking these two items into account and excluding items that ought to be excluded, I find that the loss is about Rs. 2,600. As has been said by Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, it is admitted that the Madura Industrial Institute is an educational institution though no doubt it is on a commercial basis. We have got the machinery apprentices and workmen necessarily to be employed in order to train them; we have to teach them and show them practically how to work; but we have also some opportunity for doing some work. That is how the commercial portion comes in. Primarily the object of this institution is to train, as my hon. friend put it, an army of skilled labourers, mechanics and so forth.

"There is one other point which I must mention so far as the materials are concerned. If the materials are reduced, we will not be in a position to take up good orders. Good orders are useful in two ways. In the first place, they make the two ends meet, because if we take larger contracts, we can get a little more money, and it also gives better opportunities for the apprentices

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to learn more work, so that my hon. friends will see that by cutting off Rs. 10,000 no good will accrue. On the other hand, we can get some more money if we get better work."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" Sir, the hon. the Minister has said that though we spend nearly Rs. 47,000, after deducting every provision for coal, oil, etc., we get Rs. 36,000 by way of receipts. I think the figure is not correct, because we see at page 28 that we get from all industrial schools Rs. 36,000 by way of sale-proceeds of manufactured articles in the weaving department, etc. If Rs. 36,000 represent the total receipts from all schools, it cannot be said that the Madura institute gives us Rs. 36,000."

Mr. E. F. THOMAS :—" May I just explain, Sir? This is the only industrial school we have. The other industrial schools are supported by us by means of grants in aid, and the receipts from them are not shown in the Budget."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" My point is this. If Rs. 47,000 are spent on the purchase of materials and the wages of workmen, including apprentices, we should at least have Rs. 40,000 from the industrial institute itself. We are not able to get that much, and so the institute is a losing concern. Whether we should spend this money on the purchase of materials on this account is the question to be solved here. I ask the hon. the Minister to say whether at least most of this expenditure is not a waste."

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Sir, I beg to oppose this motion brought forward by Mr. MacDougall. Mr. MacDougall makes out that the Madura institute is not worked on a commercial basis, and that it does not give any profit. But what I want to say is that it is a school intended to train young men on modern and practical lines in mechanical engineering and so on. As it is I find that sufficient money is not given to the institute. I go there very often and see the work there, and the complaint is that the Government are not giving them sufficient money. In this connexion, I should like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the desirability of appointing two or three persons as visitors to the institution, in order to stimulate the work there, and this may be productive of some good."

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—" Sir, my only reason in bringing forward this motion is this: that I want to take away the extremely wrong impression that the constituency I represent are up against technical education. We are not against it at all; on the other hand, we welcome it. But what I do object to in regard to this matter is a commercial institute being called a technical institute. If it is going to be a technical institute, say so; but do not have a commercial institution under the guise of a technical institute. With these words, I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 183.

5 p.m.

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—" Mr. President, I beg leave to move the motion standing in my name :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 25,000 for wages of workmen by Rs. 20,000.

In doing so, I still bear in mind what my hon. friend the Minister for Development said in his Budget speech that a great part of this allotment was for wages or stipends for apprentices."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ Sir, I am sorry if I conveyed the idea of a great portion. I meant only a portion of the allotment.”

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—“ Sir, I am inclined to remark that, according to the School of Arts standard, each apprentice is allowed from Re. 1 to Rs. 5 a month. Taking it at the maximum of Rs. 5, according to my hon. friend the Minister, we arrive at a figure of Rs. 4,800 for the year, leaving a surplus of Rs. 20,200 for workmen's wages. I understand from the other side that this allotment is required to teach the apprentices. In the School of Arts they propose to spend Rs. 2,700 on apprentices' wages next year, but there is not one single item in the School of Arts Budget for workmen's wages. I take it, therefore, that a commercial institute is being run in Madura in the guise of an industrial institute. I do not object to that. I do of course realize that such an institution is necessary. Unfortunately the statements made by my hon. friend, Mr. Udayar, are not fully borne out by facts. Prior to the Government taking the institution over in 1910 the institute was run by the District Board, and seemingly run successfully. So much so, the then Director of Industries cast his covetous eyes upon it and persuaded the Government to take it over. They did so in 1910. In 1922 a grand scheme was proposed and it was decided that this technical institute would be a great centre for weaving and dyeing, and, with the assistance of the Public Works Department, the Government spent over a large sum of 4 lakhs of rupees on the buildings for the institute. In 1919, the then Director of Industries looking over the institute writes a report to the Government: Mr. Innes writing in 1917, G.O. No. 1347, dated the 29th October 1917, states :

It is most necessary that we should now decide what the scope and object of the institution should be. For if we do not start the institute on the right lines, there is a danger that, instead of being a really useful institution, it will prove merely an expensive white elephant.

“ These words, I am afraid, have come true. The institute in Madura, where so many workmen are required and so many apprentices are necessary, has become a white elephant. In the same Government Order the Chief Engineer writes :

The programme laid down in the syllabus, if carried through, would undoubtedly form a good basis for an all-round mechanic, but it would not of itself produce one. The training in the mechanical workshop of a technical institute cannot be anything but a grounding in such work, because such a workshop is only an artificial reproduction of the conditions of an actual commercial concern, as it is impossible to carry out in such an establishment merely as object-lessons the very varied jobs done in a manufacturing workshop, which are generally enormously expensive and often very bulky. A technical institute can teach the underlying principles of mechanical work, but at best only a smattering of the actual practical application of these principles as the cost in plant and especially materials for executing really large and heavy work would be absolutely prohibitive.

If sixty mechanical students are steadily and industriously producing castings in the foundry, forgings in the smithy, and then machining these in the machine shop, and they are diligently performing these operations at the rate which is expected under actual manufacturing conditions, they would use up an absolutely appalling value of materials in a year. If they do not perform these processes with due diligence and energy, then the students are not gaining the experience they ought to and are in fact merely being encouraged to learn how to ‘slack’ and the institute training would do more harm than good.

“ That, Sir, is from the report of the Chief Engineer in the year 1917. He continues down below :

The actual results achieved by the industrial section may now be considered. I have examined the cases of all pupils over a series of years and find the following results :—

Those who ‘left’, abandoned their training after a few months and in no case had the course been completed. It is interesting also to ascertain to what end the training received has

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led our pupils and the cases dealt with below cover the known instances of subsequent employment in the period scrutinized :—

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Convicted of theft of materials. | (9) Cycle repairer on Rs. 10 per mensem. |
| (2) Cooly on Rs. 8 in a rice mill. | (10) Employed in the Institute on six annas a day. |
| (3) Clerk in Madura Municipal Office. | (11) Peon on Rs. 7 per mensem. |
| (4) Peon on Rs. 6 in the office of the District Traffic Superintendent. | (12) Private in the Army. |
| (5) Lace seller. | (13) Private in the Army. |
| (6) Clerk. | (14) Cleaner. |
| (7) Teacher in an elementary school. | (15) Cleaner. |
| (8) Firewood seller. | |

“Sir, the result of the inquiry is given thus in the report. Lower down the report continues :

We must therefore either close down the technical school altogether or alter its status and scope so as to accord with acknowledged policy and sound principles. A solution may be found by the conversion of the school into a commercial workshop, and by creating the conditions which are essential to the successful installation of a school. There is no commercial workshop south of Madras, save the foundry at Pondicherry and the establishment of one in Madura would provide the necessary field which does not now exist and owing to the absence of which our scheme has been a failure.

“That, Sir, is the successful Madura Institute. From what my hon. friend, the Minister for Development, said before the money is required for the purchase of materials, it is evident that he has accepted the advice contained in the report and turned the institute into a commercial factory, but that was done without informing this House. All these years it has been going on and it is still styled as a Technical Institute. If the hon. the Minister would agree to that fact that he has turned the institute into a workshop, I have no objection to his course, but I certainly do object to his moving for this allotment as if it were a technical institute.”

Mr. E. F. THOMAS :—“Mr. President, I shall confine my remarks to answering the points raised by my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall. I have in my hands the very report and the Government Order from which the hon. Member has quoted. But my hon. friend has stopped his reference with the year 1919 and I would like to bring his information up to date. This is what Mr. Campbell reported something like a year later, shortly before the Government passed orders for the reorganization of this institute in which my hon. friend is unable to find anything good. Mr. Campbell writes in his letter dated 4th May 1920 :—

When I visited Madura, I was furnished with a list of pupils who had left the institution and were said to be now doing well in the trades learnt there. I have tried to obtain as complete information on this point as possible and, in accordance with my instruction, Mr. Dunhill has now furnished particulars of as many of the pupils as could be traced. I attach a copy of the list of students who have been accounted for. It will be seen from that list that of the 360 students who have been in the institute since Government took it over, 92 are known to be following the trades which they learnt in the institute at salaries ranging from Rs. 20 to Rs. 100 per mensem, whilst 13 are still in the institute being at present classed as paid workers. Of the remaining—

Seven died,
eight are employed as peons,
one was dismissed for theft,
seven joined the Sappers and Miners as artisans,
one left to join his father in business as a timber merchant,
one joined a rice mill as cooly and is now the engine driver,
eight joined and left almost at once because the proposed foreman's course had not been started,

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seven joined the railway as cleaners with a view to becoming engine drivers, and one hundred and sixty left or were dismissed for irregular attendance or because they were found unfit while still on probation, or for similar reason.

I do not think, Sir, that that is a discredit on the institution which dismissed the pupils once they were found unfit. That, I think, Sir, is a better record than the previous one quoted by my hon. friend, Mr. MacDougall. He has with some apparent justice attacked the amount of wages budgeted for. As I tried to explain a little while ago, the object of this institute, call it what you like, is to turn out finished mechanics. The school was reorganized in 1920 and the course settled was a five year course. It is obvious that at present there is no pupil in the institute that has had more than two years' training. It is therefore somewhat premature to condemn the institute on the results so far achieved. Now, Sir, as I said, the aim of this—I shall not say institute for my hon. friend does not like it—place is to turn out finished mechanics. The only way in which to train them is to put them on to machinery and teach them how to use it. For that purpose there is a large workshop opened as part of this place, with a large number of machines of various kinds. In fact, the intention is to find a place for every kind of machine that can be required to give the pupil a complete mechanical training. I do not suppose my hon. friend expects us to train apprentices without machines. Having all the machinery, it follows that we must have workmen trained to work on the machines. The object of the training is to put the apprentice alongside of a trained workman to work the machines. My attention was directed to this Institute recently—I have not been long in my present office—and I visited the place. I am willing to admit that the criticism and the resolution is partly justified for when I had been there—I do not claim to be a critic myself, I am no Engineer—I found that the Superintendent had dispensed with some of the workmen who had been unfit. I am glad to inform the House and the hon. the Finance Member that thereby a retrenchment of Rs. 350 a month was made. Probably it may be found possible, I do not say it will be possible, that a further retrenchment under the head 'wages' may be made some time later on. What can be done will be done. I do not think I have anything more to say except just a word on the question whether it is an institute or a workshop. The suggestion is that it must be one or the other and that it cannot be both. My reply is that it is both. The main object of this institute is to turn out after a five-year course a complete mechanic. In order to do so we have a workshop attached to it. That, Sir, is the position of the Madura Technical Institute."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I wish to say a few words in reply to the more or less personal charge, 5-15 p.m. namely, that without bringing to the notice of the House I was responsible for bringing into existence a commercial institute under the name of an educational institute. The reply to that charge has been partly given already by my hon. friend, Mr. Thomas, when he said that it was not simply a workshop or a factory, nor simply a school, but a factory combined with a school. For the efficient working of the school, a factory was absolutely necessary. I may be permitted to state in this connexion that the Industrial Commission recommended the same system as we have been adopting for industrial education. The Commission say that where manual training is given sufficient mechanical work is not taught in order to enable the workmen or apprentices to become useful mechanics. They say that it is necessary that a school of this kind should be always

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attached to a workshop.* Comparing the work that is now going on in this institute and the instructions given in the Industrial Commission Report, my hon. friend will notice that we are following exactly on the lines laid down by the Industrial Commission.

“As for the Government Order, I may say that it was passed some five or six months prior to my taking charge of the portfolio; but I am not going to give the go-by to my predecessors and I am willing to abide by those orders and say that they have proceeded on right lines.”

Mr. A. M. MACDOUGALL :—“I have to say a few words in reply to the remarks made by the hon. the Minister and the Director of Industries. At the outset, I have to say that the proportion of workmen to apprentices in an institution of this kind is far too great. It is not necessary to have one workman for every apprentice. Surely, one skilled mechanic can be expected to teach two or three boys.

“Then as to the necessity of a workshop, if, as contended by the Director of Industries, it is necessary to have a workshop in order to teach the apprentices, why can we not run the concern on a profitable basis? The running charges come to about Rs. 1,700 a month and there are 80 apprentices in all. To run the workshop on a profitable basis, the customers may be charged with a sum sufficient to cover the working expenses and the cost of the material and leave a profit in addition. If that is not done, the institute is a failure. On this matter, I should like to take the sense of the House and I therefore press my motion.”

The motion was put and lost.

III

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1922-23.

Grant I.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—“Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 4.53 lakhs under Land Revenue Department.

Sir, the details in respect of this supplementary grant and the reasons justifying every one of the items which are included in this grant will be found at page 3 under the heading ‘detailed memoranda.’ If hon. Members wish to have any further information, I should be glad to supply them with such information.”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—“Sir, I beg to move—

To reduce the supplemental demand for Rs. 4.53 lakhs under Land Revenue Department by Rs. 100.

Sir, we in this House are very often accustomed to be asked to vote for supplementary grants. To-day we have got a long list of supplementary grants. I must really thank the hon. the Finance Member for supplying us with a memorandum explaining the various items that comprise the demands. The hon. the Finance Member has also explained the procedure that is followed in England and the procedure that we are following here. He is kind enough to note that we in this House pass in a debate of ten days the whole of our estimate the discussion of which in the House of Commons is spread over the months from March to August. We know how difficult it was for us to avoid discussion and in spite of repeated requests to you, Sir,

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and the hon. the Deputy President, demands were put to the House and voted upon without any further extension of time and the House was not given any opportunity of fully discussing certain important demands such as the police, etc.

"Secondly, I wish to bring to the notice of the House that in this long list of demands covering a sum of nearly 17 lakhs, we have for the Transferred Department only a sum of Rs. 80,000 and the rest is for the Reserved Department. This does not augur well for the Transferred Department inasmuch as all the saving shown in the explanatory memorandum appears to have been effected in the Transferred Department. An account of all the saving is given at page 8 of the memorandum.

"Then, Sir, the reason why I have tabled this motion is that I want to discuss the utter neglect of the claims of Oriyas in appointments made in the Land Revenue Department. I have also intimated to the hon. the Revenue Member that I was going to raise the question of representation of Oriyas in the Land Revenue Department."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"May I ask your ruling, Sir, as to whether the hon. Member is in order in raising the question of representation of Oriyas on a motion asking for a supplementary grant? The demand for a supplementary grant is purely an account matter, and I do not think it is relevant to raise the question of representation of Oriyas."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member is in order because he raises the question of the representation of Oriyas in the Land Revenue Department for which a supplementary grant is asked for."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"It is a pity, Sir, that in this country importance is attached to appointments in public service. The orders recently passed by the Government have made matters worse because instead of accepting the principle of proportional representation, they have accepted the principle of communal representation. Had this not transgressed proper limits, I for one would not have cared to attach any importance whatsoever to these things. The appointment of Oriyas in the public services has given a great cause of complaint in the quarters of this Presidency where the Oriyas inhabit for the most part. The utter neglect of the claims of the Oriyas has led to serious administrative difficulties. The issue of summons, the recording of evidence in courts and various other things have brought up a crop of trouble to the Oriyas. The leading men of the community approached the Government as early as 1907 and the result was that the Government was pleased to issue an Order No. 2957, dated 29th October 1907, fixing the percentage of Oriyas or Oriya-knowing people. That order was not properly worked and a further representation on this matter made the Government pass another Order No. 437, dated 1st December 1918, wherein it was laid down that even in the absence of passed Oriyas, unpassed Oriya candidates might be taken up in the public services. After that another Government Order was passed, namely, G.O. No. 1935, dated 28th August 1919, in which it was laid down that no candidate should be selected or appointed unless he is able to read and write Oriya manuscripts with fair fluency and correctness. The reason for passing this Government Order is clear. The fact is that many people not knowing a word of Oriya were appointed to the serious inconvenience of the public that had to resort to courts and offices.

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• *Grant I—cont.*

“Then came the communal Government Order of August 1922 laying down preferential treatment for the non-Brahmans.”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—“May I ask the hon. Member to quote correctly?”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—“I have not got a copy of the Government Order here with me; but I know that order was passed with a view to give representation to the different non-Brahman communities in this province. It is a well-known fact that the Oriyas have a long-standing grievance and that has not been attended to till now. In order to show clearly the enormous grievance of the Oriyas, I wish to quote certain figures to the House. Out of six tahsildars and nine deputy tahsildars in the Ganjam district there is only one Oriya deputy tahsildar, and that on probation. Out of the appointments in the subordinate service in the Ganjam district on a salary above Rs. 100, not a single officer is an Oriya, and even in the subordinate service below Rs. 100, we have very few Oriyas; I do not think it will exceed 25 per cent.

5-30 p.m. “Taking the Presidency figures into consideration, out of 123 deputy collectors, we have got only two deputy collectors who were confirmed, and one is still a probationer. That does not even work up to 2½ per cent of the appointments. Out of twenty-five sarishtadars carrying a salary of over Rs. 200, we have none. Besides, there is an army of officials, both in the subordinate and in the higher services in the Secretariat and in the Board of Revenue, wherein no Oriya representation has been made. In these circumstances, Government should give preferential treatment to Oriyas in the matter of appointment. This subject was raised by the Oriya community when His Excellency the Governor visited Berhampur. The question was then discussed at length, and the deputationists represented to His Excellency that, while there were many available hands who could discharge their duties properly, the claims of the Oriyas did not receive proper treatment at the hands of the officials. In these circumstances, I would request the hon. Member for Revenue to take due note of these facts and direct the deputy collectors to see that the Government Orders are put into operation. With these few words, Sir, I beg to make my motion.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—“Sir, the hon. Member began by expressing, if I understood him correctly, a disapproval of the methods pursued in the matter of reservation of places to meet communal interests. Nevertheless, inasmuch as he thinks that Government have been taking some interest with a view to meet the demands of communities which are not well represented in the public services, he draws the attention of the Government to the fact that the Oriyas, as a community, are not sufficiently represented in the public service. But he has at the same time been good enough to tell the House the various attempts made by the Government by the issue of orders to their officers to safeguard the interests of the Oriya community. He has given us certain figures which from his own standpoint are discouraging so far as his community is concerned. I am not in a position now, Sir, to judge why, if there are competent Oriyas available who can be appointed to certain posts in the Revenue Department, their claims have not been considered. I have always been under the impression that the local officers to whom orders

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of Government are issued loyally carry out those orders provided it is possible for them to do so, and I have not the least doubt, Sir, that if qualified Oriyas are available in those districts where their services can be utilized—and I take it that Ganjam district will be the one where their services can more profitably be utilized—the local officials would be only too glad to consider the claims of this community. Beyond assuring my hon. friend opposite that I have listened with interest to the facts which he has brought to my notice, and that I shall look into the matter and see if there is any further remedy which can be applied, I am not able to say anything more."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"Sir, we have no quarrel with the Government, but the difficulty is that the Government Orders are observed more in their breach than in their observance. As for my saying that I am against representation of communities in public services, I think the hon. the Revenue Member has misunderstood me. What I said was that I am against the principle of communal representation in service, but that I certainly like proportional representation of different communities—a policy which has been accepted by other provincial administrations. Therefore, I believe that the hon. the Revenue Member will give his due consideration to the claims of this community, and I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I say one word, Sir?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am first putting to the House that this grant of 4.53 lakhs be given to the Government and then the hon. Member can speak upon that by way of opposition to the grant if he has got any reasons to urge against it. That will be an opportune time for him to speak if he has got anything to say. The hon. Member can now speak."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Thank you, Sir. I shall say one word with reference to this grant, not by way of opposition, but for the purpose of eliciting a piece of information from my hon. friend the Revenue Member."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Revenue Member may not speak again."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Then I shall speak opposing this grant, Sir. The hon. Member has stated at page 3 of his memorandum that he has distributed this grant among various items. There are four figures given there. The first is a sum of Rs. 1,59,300. I do not object to that at all. The explanation given with reference to that is satisfactory. Then there are two other figures, one of Rs. 20,000 and another of Rs. 20,152. To those also I do not object. But as to the other item, which is the biggest of all the items, viz., Rs. 3,13,900, the explanation given is to my mind not satisfactory. It is under 26-D. Police—Village Police—Village talaiyaris. The explanation is this:

The Board has failed to make as large reductions in the number of talaiyaris during the year as were expected.

I cannot understand why the Board has failed to make this. It is a very large amount and certainly it must have been possible for the Board to make some substantial reductions therein. As proper explanation has not been given regarding it, I wish to oppose this grant at the present stage."

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Grant I—cont.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, the only observation that I have to make is that this is the first of a series of demands that have been made by the Government, and the total of these comes to about 17 lakhs. That being the case, it is certainly open to the hon. Members to complain that these large demands for supplementary grants are brought up just at the end of the year. The hon. the Finance Member anticipating that some objection would be taken, has attempted to give some explanation in his explanatory note which is appended to this statement. But whatever the explanation may be, it seems to me, Sir, that some serious effort should be made to put an end to this state of affairs. If the hon. Member were to ask us to vote for this 17 lakhs of rupees, say, in half an hour at the end of the Budget discussion now extending over eight days, it is certainly calling too much upon our—may I say—patience and perseverance in the discharge of public duty. At the same time there is no further use in discussing these items in detail. Apparently the hon. Member is going to tell us that the whole of this amount has been already spent by the heads of Departments, and it will certainly serve no good purpose now to examine these grants in detail and to offer criticisms thereon. So, while complaining that these grants might have been brought up much earlier and subjected to the scrutiny of the House, I should advise hon. Members not to raise either questions of policy or of details on these various motions, because it seems to me that it will really be a futile discussion now at the end of a hard day's work. That does not mean that the hon. the Finance Member and his colleagues can come to us now and ask for a grant of 17 lakhs on a statement which my hon. friend the Finance Member has given. I certainly think that he has given some details of this expenditure and it is quite possible also to contend that some of these are necessary and unavoidable. Still my hon. friend knows very well that we can raise all kinds of questions on all these points, including the inevitable communal policy which always turns up from most unexpected quarters and in the most unexpected way. Therefore, I would ask my hon. friends not to attempt at any discussions. Of course if the hon. the Finance Member has any explanations to give, it would be very welcome. I have ventured to make these observations because I see on the faces of the hon. Members a clear evidence of fatigue and any further discussion on these motions may not be quite welcome."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, while I do not for a moment wish to burke any detailed discussion of questions of policy, may I say that it is the other side that has raised a long discussion of the question of Oriya representation in the Government service upon a grant that has nothing to do with the Oriyas? Then, as regards these supplementaries, may I say that what we are trying to get a vote of the House for is for the revised estimate? I recognise that the time allowed has been short, but that is due to the fact that we do not get the final revised estimate till the end of February. As regards the magnitude of the figure involved, as pointed out in paragraph 7 of my memorandum, the Government of India have ordered that the lump sum of Rs. 16.52 lakhs shown under exchange should be distributed over the items to which it relates, which means that we have to ask the Council to vote again nearly the whole of that money, which it has already voted, but in a number of small items under different heads. We have secured again an amount of 4 lakhs on account of unclaimed deposits, but with that goes a liability to the extent of Rs. 1,25,000 for refunding

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Grant I—cont.

those that are subsequently claimed. The amount of 17 lakhs is thus covered by two items which are purely items of account and do not involve one pie of new expenditure."

MR. C. VENKATARANGA REDDI:—"Sir, in some of the Ceded districts famine conditions are prevailing, and there have been a number of petitions for remissions and suspensions. I should like to know what the Government have done on those petitions. If a satisfactory explanation is not forthcoming, I will not be willing to vote for this grant."

MR. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I should like to say a few words on this item of Rs. 3,13,900 under 26-D. Police—Village Police—Village talaiyaris. It is said in this memorandum that

the Board has failed to make as large reductions in the number of talaiyaris during the year as were expected.

I cannot understand, Sir, why reductions have not been possible. Government are trying to effect retrenchments in every possible direction, and if there is to be any cut anywhere at all, the biggest cut should be in regard to this item. In ancient days each village had a talaiyari and a vetti paid by the villagers. They were not doing any communal work, and they had to engage extra talaiyaris and vettis to look after their threshing floors, etc.

The villagers' properties are not in any way guarded in the night by these talaiyaris. They do not go round the villages in the night and prevent the occurrence of thefts, etc. Now, it is nobody's work to look after the villages.

5-45 p.m. "Another thing is that these talaiyaris are neither masters nor servants of anybody. People say that they belong to the Police Department. Some say that they will not obey the karnam or the headman of the village. In some places these talaiyaris obey the orders of the village headmen. They are not of course capable of giving any sort of relevant information to the police about the crimes that are committed in the villages. Whenever a crime is committed it is their duty to report to the village headmen. These people being illiterate are unable to send up such reports and the village headmen also do not want many crimes to be reported. Such being the case, I do not see any use of these talaiyaris at all either to the Government or to the people. For 24,486 villages we have now 32,914 talaiyaris and 32,734 vettis, that is to say roughly three men for each village. Almost all these three men are either the domestic servants of the village headmen or karnams, or are doing tilling work for some of the headmen and some of course doing household work for the karnams. So, their work is altogether very immaterial. I have only one word more to say, Sir. Before the last re-settlement there was only one man for each village. Now there are three people without any work though the villages have not correspondingly expanded. In my opinion the headman of a village should be held responsible for any trouble in his village and the village talaiyaris may be done away with."

The demand was put to the House and passed and the grant was made.

MR. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"May I request, Sir, that the remaining grants may be taken up another day? We are sitting here from 11 to 5-30 and there are a number yet to be moved."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I may state that so far as notice is concerned we got the memorandum, etc., only to-day."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I may say that I did everything I could by having the memorandum circulated on Sunday. Hon. Members had thus plenty of time to read the papers."

" As regards taking these grants later, the difficulty is that immediately after the 27th instant we begin the holidays and so far as there is fresh money to be paid out under these grants, it must be paid before the 31st March, and if we cannot get orders out in time to reach distant stations before the 28th, it is no use voting the grants at all. My hon. colleagues and I have another meeting at 5 o'clock to-morrow. So I do not know when we could find time if not now."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have no objection to adjourn this to another day if that is the wish of the House. But if we take this to-morrow, it will really be to the prejudice of Budget motions. I am giving the House the full nine days prescribed by His Excellency the Governor for the Budget motions. If we take this to-morrow morning, it will mean that the House will have to sit for an hour or two extra for this purpose."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Our suggestion is that this grant might be postponed till 5 p.m. to-morrow, so that after the Budget motions are over we can take this up."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" May I suggest, Sir, that this may be taken up on the 22nd as the first business for the day?"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, this might be taken up as the first thing day after to-morrow in which case the objections of Sir Charles Todhunter would be met. His objections are natural and reasonable. He says that the Government must get this sanctioned in time to reach the distant stations before the 28th instant. To-morrow is the 21st and day after to-morrow is the 22nd, and if these grants are voted on that day I think there will be sufficient time for the Government to make the necessary arrangements and they will not be seriously inconvenienced if we have these on the 22nd."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, we do not want to inconvenience the House in any way. So far as the Government are concerned, we have sent copies of these demands to all the departments concerned and I have instructed the heads of departments to wire to-day the result of the discussion. Last year a number of these grants were voted, but the money could not be disbursed before the new year and we had to come forward with fresh supplementary grants in the course of this year and so a great deal of inconvenience was caused. This year we have got the Easter holidays beginning in March and we have no time to lose. I will however accept the opinion of the House."

The question for the adjournment of the further consideration of this grant to 11 a.m. on the 22nd March 1923 was then put to the House and carried.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

